

Graduating Class XVI 2016-2017



Melissa Anderson
ADRC Manager
Waupaca County DHHS

Brief Bio:

Melissa Anderson is the Aging Programs Supervisor for Waupaca County Health and Human Services. Melissa is responsible for managing Waupaca County's seven nutrition sites in addition to a variety of aging programs. Over the last twelve years Melissa has worked with individuals in a variety of settings from six months to 100 years of age. She has a bachelor's of science degree in psychology from UW Stevens Point and is a state certified social worker. Melissa, her husband and six year old son have resided in Waupaca for the last seven years. Melissa enjoys spending time with her family boating, golfing, and camping.

LWC Project:

Melissa worked on the *Young Professionals* project.

"Leaders understand those around them and by doing so encourage and motivate." - Melissa Anderson



Erica Becker
Fiscal Services Adm.
Waupaca County DHHS

Brief Bio:

Erica Becker, a resident of Waupaca for 20+ years, has worked for Waupaca County Department of Health and Human Services as the Fiscal Services Administrator for the last 3 years, with an additional year as an Accountant in the Department. She has been passionate in her position about the implementation of a Trauma Informed Care approach to the work and being fiscally responsible with the County funds. Erica and her husband are the parents of two active young boys, and spend much of their time attending sporting and other club events. Additionally, Erica feels a strong sense of civic duty, leading her and her family to participate in numerous volunteering capacities in the community.

LWC Project:

Erica worked on the *Volunteer Development* project.

"Life is more rewardingly lived with a purpose outside of yourself. Be a part of experiences that improve the lives of others."

- Erica Becker





Paul Bellile
Waupaca County
Highway Department

Brief Bio:

Paul Bellile works for the Waupaca Co. Highway Department as a Heavy equipment operator. Paul has been in the highway construction business for 30 years, and has been married for 23 years. Paul and his wife, Sally, reside south of Fremont on a small farm where they raise alpacas and enjoy the show circuit and making products from their fleece. Paula has been a volunteer advanced emergency medical technician and fireman for nearly 30 years, and has been an EMS instructor at Fox Valley Technical College for over 20 years. Paul's other interests include maintaining his 1967 Chevrolet Impala convertible muscle car that he has owned since high school. Paul also enjoys collecting antique tractors and lawn mowers and volunteering for the Weyauwega VFW at the Iola Old Car show.

LWC Project:

Paul worked on the *Volunteer Development* project.

“Give 100%, 100% of the time no matter what, because you will have good days and bad days. Strive to establish a positive attitude .” Paul Bellile



Craig Bieri
Creative Strategist

Brief Bio:

Craig Bieri, designer and photographer; dreamer and explorer; maker and risk-taker, and best of all, a soon-to-be father.

LWC Project:

Craig worked on the *Young Professionals* project.

“Challenge the status quo. Give people a forum for creating. Be creative and confident in every situation .” ~Craig Bieri





Dawn Broderick
City of Waupaca—
Waupaca Area Library

Brief Bio:

Nothing is more demanding, or rewarding, than being a parent - but working in service-oriented fields comes close, and that is where I've spent over thirty years of my life honing my skills. Whether managing a retail store, or being employed in a restaurant, insurance company, library or as a volunteer on a political campaign, my focus has always been helping people.

LWC Project:

Dawn worked on the *Broadband Development* project.

“Be creative, fair, accountable, and keep the big picture in mind. Be accessible and empower people.” ~Dawn Broderick



Julie Eiden
Technology Coordinator
Waupaca School District

Brief Bio:

Julie Eiden is passionate about learning, manipulating glass, and living simply. Julie empowers and engages the students and staff of the School District of Waupaca through technology in a positive way in her current role as technology coordinator. Julie lives outside of Waupaca with her husband.

LWC Project:

Julie worked on the *Broadband Development* project.

“Listen to understand. Act with honesty and compassion. Always remember to communicate and breathe.” ~Julie Eiden





Chris Hazen
Waupaca County
Highway Department

Brief Bio:

Chris Hazen has been a resident of Waupaca County for most of his life. Seeking new adventures, he enlisted in the military right out of High School. His leadership and drive showed as he quickly moved through the ranks to become the youngest Section Chief in the Fire Support Battalion. After leaving the Army his experience in Artillery and Forward Observation did not transfer well to civilian life. Finding a position at a local construction company, he ran equipment in the summer and worked in the bagging plant in the winter. In his spare time, he enjoyed off road racing, which included building and repairing his own buggies. Because of this, family and friends convinced him to become a machinist. Chris quickly realized, while he liked the job, he did not like working indoors. Still seeking a job that was more specific to his talents, he came across an ad in the newspaper for the Highway Department. He knew working outside and running equipment was perfect for him, and has been there ever since. Now in his spare time he enjoys most outdoor sports and competitive shooting (3 gun and archery). Chris is also passionate about the safety of our youth when handling firearms, he has been volunteering as a Hunter Safety Instructor for many years.

LWC Project:

Chris worked on the *Lack of Local Treatment for Drug Addiction* project.

“Focus on positivity. Use your words to spark a drive in others to do their best. Lead with compassion.” ~Chris Hazen



Trina Herbst-Gutche
City of Weyauwega

Brief Bio:

Trina Herbst-Gutche was born and raised on a dairy farm, helping with crops and chores from a very young age. Trina has been working most of her life, holding a job since before high school graduation. Trina graduated from Fox Valley Technical College with two degrees in accounting and human resources, and has taken additional classes at Lakeland College. In 2009, Trina was elected Treasurer for the Town of Poygan, in Winnebago County, and still holds that position. She started working for the City of Weyauwega in 2012, and enjoys spending time with her family – her husband and two dogs that are spoiled rotten.

LWC Project:

Trina worked on the *Broadband Development* project.

“Be willing to help others. Get to know people so you can truly understand.” ~Trina Herbst-Gutche





Deana Hirte
CAP Services
Head Start

Brief Bio:

Deana Hirte is an early childhood educator and family support professional who works with children, prenatally through age 3, and their families through the Early Head Start program. Deana believes that learning begins before birth and parents and family members are a child's first and most important teachers. Early childhood education, including family support, empowers families to teach their children using skills that are research based and proven to encourage optimal growth and development. Deana has worked with children and families most of her adult life through various programs, employment options, volunteer experiences and as the mother of 3 children of her own. Deana is a trained home visitor and family support specialist with an extensive list of child and family centered trainings, certifications and experiences. Deana holds a master of arts degree in education with an emphasis in early childhood education and a bachelor of science degree in human services management. Deana lives in Weyauwega, WI with her husband, Mike. They have 3 grown children, 1 grandchild and share their home with their pet kitties. Deana enjoys gardening, social media, arts and crafts, DIY, Pinterest, and welcomes new ideas and innovative thinking in her areas of interest

LWC Project:

Deana worked on the *Broadband Development* project.

“Possess initiative to do; persistence to complete; flexibility to adapt, all while being true to yourself.” ~Deana Hirte



Kim Manteuffel
Regional Center Manager—
FVTC Clintonville

Brief Bio:

The journey of a thousand miles begins with one step. My passion is helping people take that one step in the form of higher education. I help potential students see the direction their educational path can take them and how one step at a time will cover the miles needed to change not only their lives, but their family lives as well. With twenty years' experience in the Technical College System I have walked down many different paths with students in the hopes of achieving their education goals.

When I am not creating pathways for students, I am busy watching my six children create their own pathways to fulling and happy lives. Always making sure education is at the forefront of those paths and being grateful for the opportunity to do so.

LWC Project:

Kim worked on the *Volunteer Development* project.

“Managers tell people what to do, leaders do it with them.”

~Kim Manteuffel





Tyler Mueller
City of Weyauwega

Brief Bio:

Tyler Mueller began his life in Neenah, moved to Appleton when he was 7, and proceeded to graduate from Appleton West High school in 2008. Tyler graduated from Fox Valley Technical College with an Associate's Degree in Natural Resources, and is currently working as the Water Operator in Charge for the City of Weyauwega. In his free time, Tyler enjoys spending time with his girlfriend Mal, friends, and family. Tyler has a passion for the outdoors and he hunts and goes fishing as often as possible. Tyler is currently beginning his venture as a professional walleye fisherman, and feels blessed to be doing so. He plans to continue on that journey to fulfill his lifelong dream of becoming an avid professional in the walleye/fishing industry. Tyler also enjoys time spent with his dogs, Drake and Oliver.

LWC Project:

Tyler worked on the *Young Professionals* project.

“To go the distance, you have to be willing to take that first step.”

~Tyler Mueller



Lindsay Neville
Operations Manager
Neville Motors

Brief Bio:

Lindsay Neville was born and raised in Waupaca. She attended St. Olaf College in Northfield, Minnesota, graduating with a degree in Family Studies and Business Management. She spent 11 years living in the Twin Cities working in commercial real estate before returning to her hometown community of Waupaca in May of 2016 to work for Neville Motors. She is excited to be back in her hometown and to continue to support her community through local business as well as community outreach and volunteer opportunities.

LWC Project:

Lindsay worked on the *Lack of Local Treatment for Drug Addiction* project.

“Find your personal ‘why,’ be confident in your course, and stay true to it.”

~Lindsay Neville





Lynn Olson
VP & Chief Credit Officer
First State Bank

Brief Bio:

Lynn Olson relocated from Buffalo, Minnesota to New London Wisconsin in July 2015 in order to take advantage of a great opportunity to join First State Bank's management team as Vice President and Chief Credit Officer. She has more than 17 years of lending and credit administration experience and is responsible for the day-to-day oversight and administration of the bank's loan portfolio and loan operations. When she is not conquering the credit world, Lynn keeps busy wrangling her "boys" ages 41, 7, 5 and 3. Additional passions include long distance running, reading, hunting and fishing. Any successes are to the credit of God, her parents and the support she receives from her amazing family.

LWC Project:

Lynn worked on the *Volunteer Development* project.

"Our greatest strengths are also our greatest weaknesses when overused. Balance is key." ~Lynn Olson



Chris Paine
Basic Analyst
Sturm Foods

Brief Bio:

Chris Paine is a Senior Analyst at TreeHouse Foods, Inc. He has been involved in the information technology industry for the past 30 years. He earned a Bachelor of Science in Business Administration from Marian University of Fond du Lac. He enjoys hunting and fishing and spending time "up North". He has thrown 2 sanctioned perfect games in bowling and has several "700" series. He is a loving husband to Carrie and father to Bryan and Bryce.

LWC Project:

Chris worked on the *Broadband* project.

"Value and appreciate the input of others. Communicate your 'why' so others may guide the organization in your absence." ~Chris Paine





Nikki Schroeder
Branch Manager
Premier Community Bank

Brief Bio:

Nikki Schroeder works as a branch manager for Premier Community Bank, Waupaca, Fremont and King locations. She started her banking career as a teller in 1994 at First Northern Savings Bank. Since then Nikki has been through 3 bank acquisitions which she believes played a big role in developing her leadership skills. Nikki's passion is to help others succeed. Nikki does this by creating opportunities for others, listening to their goals, building trusting relationships, viewing at each situation uniquely, and helping others find what drives them. Nikki strongly believes that once you find your passion and follow it, anything is possible. In her free time, Nikki enjoys spending time with her family and friends traveling, boating, kayaking, walking, shopping and camping.

LWC Project:

Nikki worked on the *Lack of Local Treatment for Drug Addiction* project.

“Lead by example. Treat others the way they want to be treated, and coach them to be their best. Continue to learn and grow.”

~Nikki Schroeder



Kurt Schwan
Waupaca County
Highway Department

Brief Bio:

Kurt Schwan was born in February of 1970 and grew up on the outskirts of Marion where he worked on the family farm. Graduating from Marion High School in 1988, Kurt became a member of the blue collar crowd. Kurt worked for Dairyland Construction where he traveled across Wisconsin performing concrete construction primarily focused in the dairy industry. Kurt had the opportunity to work closer to home and accepted a position with Rosenow Concrete Construction. Kurt became knowledgeable in all aspects of concrete construction utilizing different tools of the trade, and remained at Rosenow Concrete Construction for 13 years, when the owner of the company retired. When the opportunity arose for a position at the Waupaca County Highway Department, Kurt decided to apply and gladly accepted when the position as offered to him, and currently works at the Larrabee shop. During his first five years he has been promoted to Class II Operator and completed DOT Bridge Inspection course along with other accomplishments. Kurt's work ethic is the core of his day to day operations with the county. Kurt leads by example and is a key team player at the Waupaca Country Highway Department. Kurt currently resides in Marion with his wife Crystal and two step children, Garret and Gracie.

LWC Project:

Kurt worked on the *Lack of Local Treatment for Drug Addiction* project.

“Three qualities that...are the most important to me are honesty, commitment, and discipline. I lead by example and I hope others witness that and possibly learn from it.” ~Kurt Schwan





Jennifer Spady
City of Waupaca
Parks and Recreation

Brief Bio:

Jennifer Spady is a committed Administrative Professional with many years of experience in exceeding internal and external customer needs. She has launched several successful events, programs and reporting techniques, and currently works with members in and out of the Waupaca community to utilize their Parks & Recreational facilities and programs. Jennifer believes that indoor and outdoor recreational activities are key to living a balanced and fulfilling life. Jennifer is certified in First Aid and CPR and enjoys acrylic painting and walks with her family, friends and dog.

LWC Project:

Jennifer worked on the *Young Professionals* project.

“Truly listen and consider all facts. Be open and respectful with your communication to create genuine connections. ~Jennifer Spady



Tiffany Thulien
Learning & Development
Specialist
Sturm

Brief Bio:

Tiffany's passions revolve around people, continued learning and travel. This can be seen daily in her personal and professional life. Tiffany has a long history as a Learning and Development Specialist. Currently with Sturm Foods primarily as a learning consultant, she helps develop individual courses as well as multi-topic programs. She initiated a training program using the Training Within Industry (TWI) framework and feels it's success is directly proportional to the TWI Instructors passion for training and improving the learning environment for new employees. Communication and standardization for the TWI program is progressing forward by a commitment to regularly meet and share best practices. Additionally in Tiffany's role she also helps match learning opportunities to individual development needs and oversees the Learning Management System and eLearning courses.

Outside of work she is involved with a Lions/Lioness club and her homeowners association and will be increasing her involvement this year to take on a secretary position in each of the groups. Her life is blessed with supportive family and friends.

LWC Project:

Tiffany worked on the *Volunteer Development* project.

“Be approachable. Help others be more prepared. Recognize potential, remove barriers, encourage growth.” ~Tiffany Thulien





Kathy Wittig
Packaging Materials
Planner
Sturm Foods

Brief Bio:

“Old School” work ethic really does still exist.

But I prefer to call it passion. And I attribute a good portion of that passion to family and to working for extremely successful family owned companies.

I am Kathie Wittig, Packaging Materials Planner/Plant Buyer at Sturm Foods in Manawa, WI. My career began as a 2nd shift production employee at Hillshire Farm, which was then family owned and operated. While there, my passion was apparent and recognized in the form of new opportunities – from a parts room office position to a purchasing position. My next opportunity was at Anchor Food Products in Appleton, which was then owned by the Follett family. The opportunities in the purchasing field there grew for me, once again, because my passion was recognized. My current opportunity at Sturm Foods began when the company was owned and operated by the Sturm family. The philosophies of these family owned businesses have been instilled in me and I will be forever grateful for what they have taught me. My husband and I have lived in our dream-come-true home on a couple of acres near New London for 38 years, where we raised our two sons. I am passionate about watching things grow – watching my boys grow up into men, watching my house grow larger and my yard expand to a haven of trees, flower and vegetable gardens is like a fairytale for me. And now, the greatest passion I currently have is watching my two grandchildren grow. And how convenient...they live right next door!

LWC Project:

Kathie worked on the *Lack of Local Treatment for Drug Addiction* project.

“True leadership comes from the heart. It is a result of an inner passion and a desire to move forward...” ~Kathie Wittig



Susan Younger
Family & Community
Services Manager
Waupaca County DHHS

Brief Bio:

Susan graduated from the University of Wisconsin-Madison and is a Certified Social Worker. She has worked in the field of long term support for nearly 30 years, starting her career as a Parent Advocate for CESA 5. Soon after she started working for Waushara County DHS as a Program Coordinator/Case Manager for families who have children with disabilities. This was where she found her passion: encouraging and supporting healthy parent-child engagement. In 2014 she accepted the position of Family Community Services Manager with Waupaca County DHHS. In this role, she supervises voluntary services for children Birth-21 years old with disabilities. Programs in her area include Children’s Long Term Support waivers, Children’s Community Options Program, Coordinated Services Teams and the Birth to 3 Program. Working for Waupaca has allowed her to continue her passion, keeping families safe and connected. In her free time she enjoys being with her family, reading, traveling and spending time on the water.

LWC Project:

Susan worked on the *Lack of Local Treatment for Drug Addiction* project.

“Lead in such a way that you respond to others with empathy, understand and respect differences, and self-reflect.” ~Susan Youngers

