

ALLIANT ENERGY
Erroll B. Davis, Jr.
ACHIEVEMENT AWARDS

ALLIANT ENERGY
James R. Underkofler
EXCELLENCE IN TEACHING AWARDS

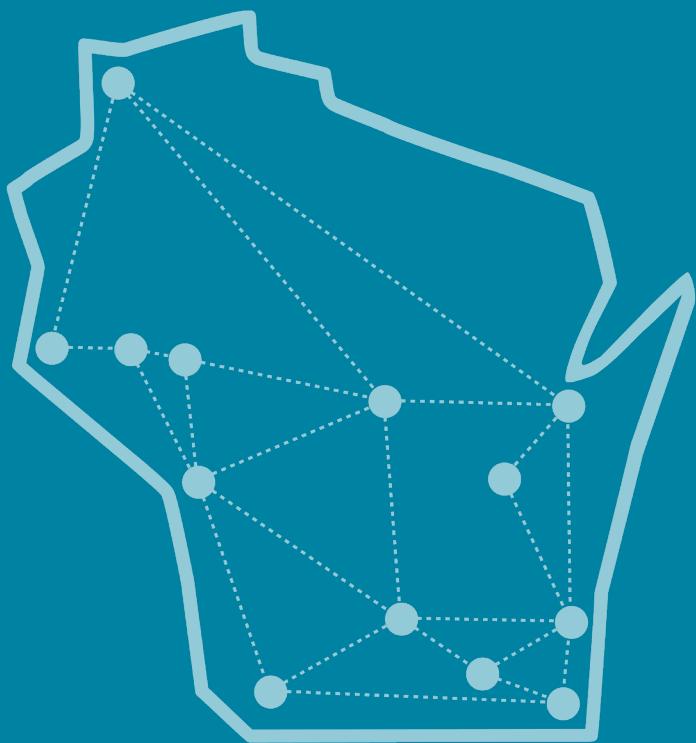
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**ALLIANT ENERGY
FOUNDATION
AWARD
CEREMONY**



**Alliant
Energy**TM
Foundation

Thursday, October 30, 2025
Pyle Center, Alumni Lounge, 2:00 - 4:30 p.m.
702 Langdon St, Madison, Wisconsin



Program Highlights

Ceremony 2:00 – 4:30 p.m. | Award Presentation 2:30 p.m.

In Attendance:

Andy Kitslaar, Executive Director, Alliant Energy Foundation

Mikayla Krueger, Lead Community Affairs Specialist, Alliant Energy Foundation

WELCOME

Johannes Britz, Senior Vice President for Academic and Student Affairs, Universities of Wisconsin

ERROLL B. DAVIS, JR. ACHIEVEMENT AWARDS

Award History

Ben Lipari, Vice President of Commercial Operations, Alliant Energy

Award presentation with remarks by recipients

Johannes Britz

Student Recipients

Sarah Stevens, Business Administration, UW-Madison

Taeren Yang, Electrical Engineering, UW-Madison

JAMES R. UNDERKOFLER EXCELLENCE IN TEACHING AWARDS

Award History

Ben Lipari

Award presentation with remarks by recipients

Johannes Britz

Faculty Recipients

Christopher Frayer, PhD, Professor, Department of Mathematics, UW-Platteville

Dale F. Murray, PhD, Professor, Department of Humanities–Philosophy, UW-Platteville Baraboo Sauk County

Eduardo Romero Arvelo, PhD, Assistant Teaching Professor, Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering, UW-Madison

Prashant Sharma, PhD, Associate Professor, Department of Integrative Biology, UW-Madison

ERROLL B. DAVIS, JR. ACHIEVEMENT AWARDS

In 2006, the Alliant Energy Foundation established an endowed fund, the Alliant Energy Erroll B. Davis, Jr. Achievement Awards. These awards annually honor outstanding scholarship and community service of undergraduate students from traditionally underrepresented minority groups pursuing a degree in Business or Engineering at UW-Madison. The award is being presented this year to two students selected by UW-Madison during the spring semester of their junior year. The students receive the award upon graduation.

Alliant Energy established these awards to recognize and honor Erroll B. Davis, Jr., former CEO of the Alliant Corporation. Mr. Davis was the first African American to head a "Business Week 1000" company. He was also named one of the "50 Most Powerful Black Executives in America" by Fortune magazine in 2002.

From 1987 to 1994, Mr. Davis served as a member of the Board of Regents for the University of Wisconsin System.

JAMES R. UNDERKOFLER EXCELLENCE IN TEACHING AWARDS

In 1990, the Wisconsin Power and Light Foundation (Alliant Energy's Wisconsin Utility) established an endowed fund, the Alliant Energy James R. Underkofler Excellence in Teaching Awards. These awards honor outstanding faculty and academic staff whose dedication to teaching and ability to inspire students exemplify the best values of the Universities of Wisconsin. The awards are presented annually to up to four recipients who teach at UW universities within the company's service area. Candidates are selected by their home universities.

These awards were established to recognize and honor James R. Underkofler (1923–2015), who served Wisconsin Power and Light for more than 48 years, retiring as CEO and Chairman of the Board in 1990.

Mr. Underkofler was a staunch supporter of teaching excellence and believed in the importance of connecting public and private educational systems to enhance learning and motivate young minds. The James R. Underkofler Excellence in Teaching Awards reflect Alliant Energy's strong historical dedication to education and support the Universities of Wisconsin's longstanding commitment to excellence in teaching and providing high-quality education to people from throughout Wisconsin and the world.



2025

Alliant Energy
Erroll B. Davis, Jr.
Achievement Awards

RECIPIENT BIOGRAPHIES



SARAH STEVENS

Sarah Stevens plans to graduate in December 2025 from UW-Madison with a Bachelor of Business Administration in Finance, Investment, and Banking. Growing up biracial in a predominantly white community instilled in her a passion for fostering diverse communities and ensuring inclusion. At UW-Madison, Sarah was selected to join Women in Business and later served as Trip Director, organizing the bi-annual networking trip to Chicago to connect with like-minded women in business. She went on to join the Undergraduate Business Council, serving on the DEI committee to plan and execute initiatives that foster an inclusive business school. To further her professional development, Sarah was selected to participate in the Goldman Sachs Women's Possibilities Summit, where she refined her personal branding strategies and cultivated a strong professional network.

Throughout her college career, Sarah has worked at the Office of Student Financial Aid, providing tailored support to students and families navigating financial aid. Her dedication and leadership within the business school and campus community helped her secure an internship as a Summer Investment Analyst at Freeport Financial, a sponsor-backed direct lending firm. In this role, she authored investment screens for investment committee review and contributed to portfolio management across multiple business sectors. Following her successful internship, Sarah received a full-time offer as an investment analyst, which she will begin in February after graduation.

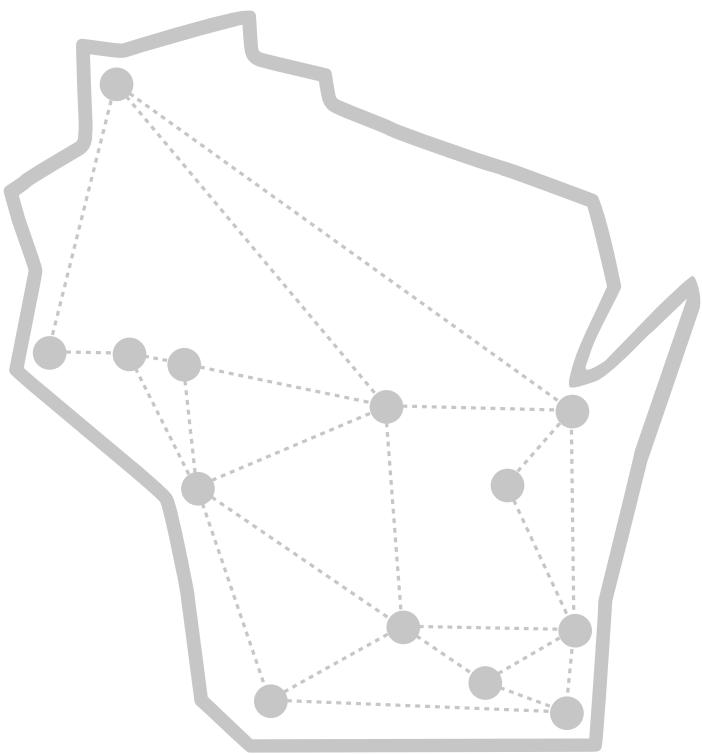
Through these experiences, Sarah has strengthened her financial and analytical skills while honing leadership, teamwork, and communication abilities. She is eager to pursue a career in finance where she can continue to create an impact, not only through her professional contributions but also by championing diversity and expanding opportunities for underrepresented voices in a male-dominated industry.



TAEREN YANG

Taeren Yang plans to graduate in May 2026 from UW-Madison with a Bachelor of Science, majoring in Electrical Engineering, Mathematics, and Physics. At UW-Madison, Taeren has taken a tour of the physical sciences through his coursework, ranging from stochastic processes to quantum mechanics. He has spent time as a student intern with the Architects & Engineers division at UW-Madison, where he assisted with remodeling projects and maintaining the database of the mechanical, electrical, and plumbing systems for nearly every building on campus. He was also a Substation Engineer Intern at Electrical Consultants Inc. before finding a passion for nano materials with the Rhodes Lab, where he's optimizing the synthesis of a topological superconductor. His time with the Rhodes Lab had solidified his interest in solid-state electronics and created a new passion for the academic research process.

These experiences have prepared Taeren for graduate study, where he intends to research potential nano material candidates that can power future computers in a post-silicon world. He looks forward to a career in the semiconductor industry, pursuing the next material for the future of electronics.





2025

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Excellence in Teaching
Awards

RECIPIENT BIOGRAPHIES

CHRISTOPHER FRAAYER



Dr. Christopher Frayer is a professor in the Department of Mathematics at UW-Platteville, which he joined in 2008 after earning his MS and PhD in Mathematics from the University of Kentucky in Lexington. He fosters a learning environment that encourages active participation, prioritizes understanding over memorization, and instills students with the confidence to explore mathematics beyond the course.

Dr. Frayer knew he wanted to teach college-level mathematics when he was a second-year college student. He empowers his students to fully engage in the learning process, completing an Inclusive Pedagogy Certificate through the UW-Platteville Teaching and Technology Center during the 2022-2023 academic year. This training has helped him create a welcoming environment where students feel comfortable participating in class discussion and asking questions. He makes it a priority to get to know his students, provide peer-interaction opportunities, and encourage questions while conveying his enthusiasm about each class and discussion.

Dr. Frayer uses teaching techniques such as preparing skeleton note handouts for his students and using a tablet to project a note-taking application onto a screen at the front of the classroom, allowing him to face students and facilitate real-time interactions. Each semester, student evaluations reflect positively on these techniques. Many of the student research projects he has mentored have resulted in collaborative research papers published in professional journals. His students have also presented at state and national conferences. Four former students have earned PhDs in Mathematics and are now teaching at the university level, while several are currently in graduate school. Dr. Frayer also designs and facilitates activities for outreach programs and summer camps that take place at UW-Platteville. He earned a Distinguished Teaching Award in 2019-2020 from the Mathematical Association of America Wisconsin Section.



DALE F. MURRAY

Dr. Dale F. Murray is a professor of philosophy in the Department of Humanities at UW-Platteville Baraboo Sauk County, where he has taught since 2006. He earned both his MA and PhD in Philosophy at UW-Madison, with a graduate minor in Political Science. He holds a BA from Bowdoin College. Dr. Murray's teaching and research interests include biomedical ethics, environmental ethics, social and political philosophy, philosophy of sport, and the history of ethics. He previously taught at UW-Madison, Virginia Commonwealth University, Longwood University, and Xavier University of Louisiana.

Dr. Murray's commitment to student success is admired by students, colleagues, and community members, including adult auditors who have taken his courses. He received the UW-Baraboo/Sauk County Special Recognition Award in 2013 for promoting student success in the classroom; the UW-Baraboo Sauk/County Kaplan Award in 2016 for his innovation in teaching and service to students; and the UW-Platteville Faculty Excellence Award for teaching excellence and fostering student success.

Former students have become teachers, physicians, nurses, journalists, businesspeople, and even a stand-up comedian. He has guided 17 honors projects covering a wide range of student interests with one earning a spot in the Universities of Wisconsin "Research in the Rotunda" annual event. Serving as a mentor and sponsoring meaningful projects initiated by students have been among most fulfilling highlights of his career. Dr. Murray was invited to join working groups for the inception of what is now the Helios program, launched in fall 2022 by UW-Platteville's College of Liberal Arts and Education to enhance opportunities for students to explore humanities concepts and pressing issues affecting our global society. Over his career, Dr. Murray has lent his expertise as a guest lecturer covering more than 50 philosophical topics for other faculty members' courses.



EDUARDO ROMERO ARVELO

Dr. Eduardo Romero Arvelo is an assistant teaching professor in UW-Madison's Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering. He earned his PhD, MS, and BS degrees in electrical engineering from the University of Maryland. Since joining UW-Madison in 2020, he has refined his teaching philosophy, particularly through implementing active learning. A junior-level electrical engineering course was his first experience with a flipped classroom, where students watch lecture videos prior to class. Using class time for discussion, problem-solving, and deeper conceptual engagement rather than passive information delivery allows him to focus on students that need more coaching to master complex topics. He incorporates a brief (10-15 minute) in-person lecture to review material or explore a concept in greater depth. He finds that this hybrid approach retains the benefits of the flipped classroom while improving student outcomes through repetition and reinforcing connections between previous content and new concepts.

Dr. Arvelo's teaching philosophy is built around approachability and authenticity to create an environment where all students feel valued and empowered to contribute. He co-created and co-facilitated a teaching assistant program to enhance teaching effectiveness of graduate students in instructional supporting roles across the department, serving as a model for how to prepare the next generation of engineering educators. As vice chair of the Undergraduate Curriculum Committee and a member of the Curriculum Redesign Committee, Dr. Arvelo is helping shape the future of electrical and computer engineering education at UW-Madison. Additionally, he serves as faculty advisor to 70 undergraduate department students enrolled in the Machine Learning and Data Science Named Option, providing crucial guidance and mentorship as they navigate this challenging specialization.

Dr. Arvelo earned the 2024 James G. Woodburn Award for Excellence in Undergraduate Teaching from the UW-Madison College of Engineering and the 2022 Electrical and Computer Engineering Gerald Holdridge Teaching Excellence Award.



PRASHANT SHARMA

Dr. Prashant Sharma is an associate professor in the Department of Integrative Biology at UW-Madison. He earned his PhD and undergraduate degree in biology from Harvard University.

Dr. Sharma, who joined UW-Madison in 2015, teaches undergraduates in both a large introductory course and as part of advanced undergraduate courses with lectures, labs, and discussions. Beyond his own courses, he actively participates in residential learning communities and K-12 teacher training programs, such as the AP Biology Summer Institute.

Dr. Sharma mentors five to six undergraduate students each year in directed research projects in his laboratory. His mentorship emphasizes working with students to develop concrete, achievable goals. Several of his undergraduates have published peer-reviewed works, including as first-authors, in such outlets as PNAS, Molecular Biology and Evolution, Proceedings of the Royal Society B, and BMC Genomics. Undergraduates undergo immersive training, present their work at national and international conferences, and participate in fieldwork in distant, challenging habitats, including caves of Israel, tropical forests of Australia, and savannahs of Colorado.

Dr. Sharma's teaching mission emphasizes access to immersive experiences for all undergraduates. Two courses that he resurrected in the curriculum, Zoology 300 and 301: The Biology and Evolution of Invertebrates/Lab, are a reimagining of the traditional invertebrate zoology course. He teaches different animal groups to students as explanatory vehicles for higher-level concepts in biology. Dr. Sharma commits to providing access to rich experiences in biology through the laboratory component of this course, which features live animals from marine facilities and his network of collaborators from around the world; museum specimens from our UW Zoological Museum, which he recently began managing as faculty director; and material collected by his laboratory during their research expeditions.

