

**Profile of
Jerry Hoepner**
Associate Professor, Department of Communication Sciences and Disorders
University of Wisconsin–Eau Claire
2020 Regents Teaching Excellence Individual Award Recipient

Highlights from nomination materials:

- Ph.D., UW-Madison, and M.S., UW-Eau Claire, Communication Sciences and Disorders; B.S., Psychology, Minnesota State University, Mankato.
- Engages in Scholarship of Teaching and Learning (SoTL) research to refine his teaching practices and to address real-life questions that arise from his students; helped develop a think tank that began as a consortium of six UW System schools and has expanded to a consortium of Upper Midwest schools.
- Infuses his enthusiasm for the teaching-learning process, his passion for facilitating learning, and his investment in evidence-based pedagogy into every aspect of his interactions with students and faculty, within the department, across campus and in national and international venues.
- Helped found a disciplinary journal, *Teaching and Learning in Communication Sciences and Disorders (TLCSD)*, and continues to serve on its editorial board; the journal is in response to the need for a place to share research on best practices for future speech-language pathologists and audiologists.
- Continuously and systematically improves the courses he teaches, focusing on student feedback, peer feedback and mentoring, reflective practice, and SoTL teaching; implemented an apprenticeship model with undergraduate researchers and thesis students, leading to greater independence over time.
- Asks students to review session videos and make their own judgments before reviewing their reflections together; students show remarkable improvement when they recognize the ‘why’ and ‘how’ of an approach.
- Expanded and continues to lead his department’s instructional internship program in which students who have successfully completed coursework in the program’s major apply to serve as instructional interns working collaboratively with the course instructor to improve student learning.
- Includes a substantial number of student co-authors and contributors in his research and scholarship as an example of how he mentors future speech language pathologists.
- Has helped improve the teaching culture in the department, positively influencing recruitment, retention, and the performance of undergraduate and graduate students, as well as the regional and national reputation of the department, its alumni, and UW-Eau Claire as a whole.

In Jerry Hoepner’s own words:

- “Reflection is at the heart of learning in a clinical context....The more I learned of the value of self-evaluation, the more I recognized the need to facilitate that reflection.”

In the words of colleagues:

- “What distinguishes Dr. Hoepner is the way in which he melds teaching and learning with clinical practice within the classroom and the community....These contexts provide the opportunity for Dr. Hoepner to live his teaching philosophy of providing expert models, giving students the opportunity to practice in real settings, and fostering reflection on the experience.” —*Patricia A. Kleine, Provost/Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs, UW-Eau Claire*
- “[Dr. Hoepner] firmly believes that all students can succeed and that some just need a richer, more hands-on experience to help them make that connection. He seeks out these types of students, provides that high-impact learning opportunity, and has had amazing results.”
—*Abby Hemmerich, Associate Professor, Communication Sciences and Disorders, UW-Eau Claire*