



University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire

NEWS RELEASE

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Sosalla named new Educational Opportunity Center director

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EAU CLAIRE — Dr. Joan Sosalla has been named the director of the Educational Opportunity Center at the University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire.

"I have assisted people of all ages for many years as they have tried to make decisions about changes in their lives," said Sosalla. "Usually there is an educational component involved as an option for moving forward. When people embrace education, it creates major changes and opportunities that make a better life available."

The Educational Opportunity Center Program is a federally funded community-based program that encourages and assists eligible adults in their pursuit of a college degree, including counseling, admissions, financial aid and registration. The EOC makes services accessible at satellite sites within the program's 10-county target area. The goal is to increase the number of adult participants who enroll in postsecondary education institutions.

Sosalla received her bachelor's degree from UW-Eau Claire, her master's degree from UW-La Crosse and her doctorate from UW-Madison. She served as interim assistant vice chancellor and executive director of continuing education at UW-Stevens Point and was a campus administrator and assistant director of distance learning for Western Wisconsin Technical College. Most recently Sosalla provided consulting services for continuing education institutions, workforce development boards and individuals making life and career transitions. She also worked as the administrative coordinator for Western Dairyland.

"I see my strength in accessing a variety of networks within this part of the state to reach an even wider range of adults so more people can access post-secondary education and the resulting positive opportunities," said Sosalla.

UW-Eau Claire has been successful in receiving funding for EOC from the U.S. Department of Education since 1994 and is home to one of only two EOC programs in the state. The program serves more than 1,100 eligible adults each year in Barron, Chippewa, Clark, Dunn,

Eau Claire, Jackson, Rusk, Sawyer, Trempealeau and Washburn counties, and has offices at both UW-Eau Claire and UW-Barron County in Rice Lake.

For more information about the program, contact Dr. Joan Sosalla at 715-836-2024 or 800-335-3113.

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