



Citation of

BRIAN SAVILONIS

for the

**2016 DENISE NICOLETTI TRUSTEES' AWARD
FOR SERVICE TO COMMUNITY**

The Trustees' Award for Service to Community is presented in memory of Denise Nicoletti, a professor in the Electrical and Computer Engineering Department from 1991 to 2002, whose passion for life and outreach to under-represented groups touched many lives. Among her activities, Denise co-founded Camp Reach, a widely-acclaimed summer program which introduces seventh grade girls to the excitement of engineering and science. The recipient of the 2016 Nicoletti Trustees' Award for Service to Community is Professor Brian Savilonis.

Brian Savilonis has devoted many years of his life to WPI. After graduating from WPI with his BS and MS degrees, he earned his PhD at the University of Buffalo. He returned to WPI in 1981 to join the ranks of the faculty and, in numerous roles, has been enriching the lives of students, faculty and staff ever since.

Brian has a passion for running and coaching. Soon after he was hired as a faculty member, he joined the cross country team's practice and inherited the coaching position for the Women's Cross Country club which quickly became a varsity team. It was the beginning of his career as coach for the cross country teams and the track and field teams. His former students and athletes will attest that he was not only their coach, but professor, advisor, mentor, and friend. Brian created a strong community among the student athletes of these teams by encouraging the teams to support each other and other athletic teams across campus. He instilled in his athletes the importance of making a difference in their communities and then supporting their decisions to do so by rearranging practice schedules to accommodate these commitments. To quote from some of his students: "He emphasized team dynamics, academics, and WPI citizenship as much as or even more than athletics", "We quickly realized that Brian was not only coaching us in cross country, but also for life", "He took a special interest in all of our futures. He checked in with us on our academics, offering help or advice where he could. He checked in on our social and emotional well-being, too, making sure we were keeping our stress levels in check, and getting in the support we needed from our social groups."

In addition to his service to student athletes at WPI, he was a founding member of the Frontiers summer program, served and continues to serve on numerous academic, student related and program committees. He is a dedicated professor in Mechanical Engineering and has received several teaching and advising awards throughout his academic career.

Brian's service beyond the halls of WPI include assisting at track meets for Special Olympics, area high schools, and numerous community racing events. He advised a regional high school science club and has been a judge in a regional science fair for the past 26 years.

As observed by the supporters for his nomination, Brian's "true passions are helping others succeed and building community". He "exemplifies genuine care for the enrichment of life for others". It is for these traits and others that we are proud to honor Professor Brian Savilonis with the 2016 Denise Nicoletti Trustees' Award for Service to the Community.

Suzanne Weekes, Chair
Associate Professor, Mathematical Sciences

Christina DeVries
Associate Budget Director, Finance and Operations

Barbara Broad
Mother of Denise Nicoletti

Rodica Neamtu
Graduate Student

Eric Chojnowski
Benefits Administrator, Human Resources

Sarah Olson
Assistant Professor, Mathematical Sciences

Colette Pellegrini
Undergraduate Student