



*Citation of*  
**Kate Beverage**  
*for the*  
**2023 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 underrepresented groups touched many lives. Among her activities, Denise co-founded Camp Reach, a widely acclaimed summer program that introduces seventh grade girls to the excitement of engineering and science. The 2023 Nicoletti Trustees' Award for Service to Community is awarded to Kate Beverage, Director of Technology for Teaching and Learning Services (TTL), for her service to the community.

In her eighteen years at WPI, Ms. Beverage has selflessly and positively influenced the WPI campus culture through her service to many departments, her mentorship of staff, her role as an advocate and advisor for students, and her contributions supporting WPI's mission. When she joined WPI in 2005, no one could have predicted how her tireless work ethic or her pure passion to help others would change our community. Ms. Beverage's work touches virtually every area of campus, and she approaches her work with a "let's figure out what's possible" perspective and a supportive leadership style that motivates her team to meet any challenge. Whether she's given a complex project or a one-off quick task—and despite multiple priorities vying for her attention—she gives each task the same undivided attention and care.

One of Ms. Beverage's defining characteristics is her unwavering commitment to supporting a universally accessible WPI so that each community member is given an environment in which they can thrive, and she does this in every way she can. She has played an important role in creatively supporting students with disabilities in accessing virtual content, helping boost the delivery of quality online education through the implementation of new software products, and in helping use technology to create active learning. As a reliable advocate for transgender community members, she ensured that the proper names of community members appear accurately in all systems under her office. Colleagues say Ms. Beverage anticipates problems and often implements solutions before anyone else knows there's an issue brewing, often saving others time, stress, and confusion.

Ms. Beverage's sheer determination to make the impossible happen was evident to the WPI community when, virtually overnight, COVID-19 required a complete change in campus learning. She and her team were pivotal as WPI operations relied on their expertise to enable TechFlex seamlessly for all. As the world grappled with the overwhelming prospect of a pandemic, Ms. Beverage rallied the TTL team to put together a series of online resources and trainings for faculty. Because of that work, WPI was able to shift to remote learning for D-Term 2020. As a problem-solver with a collaborative nature, Ms. Beverage corralled varied teams and stakeholders across campus to ensure that students' education at WPI continued. She focused on what was needed and created solutions to match those needs. As a result of her leadership and her team's work, the university provided its distinctive high-quality teaching and learning throughout the early days of the pandemic and during the later full-campus reopening. Equally important, Ms. Beverage's calm and constant presence in endless technology meetings reassured others during a time of crisis. Without her, none of this would have been possible; she did all the things and made all the magic possible.

As a manager, Ms. Beverage faith in her team gives each of them space to contribute to campus operations and develop their own level of expertise. As a champion of lifting up one to lift up all, she knits her team together with a leadership style that connects them to each other and to WPI in a way that inspires deep loyalty. The TTL team members appreciate her quiet support because it lets them flourish and grow as individuals and, as a result, increases the available expertise and resources on campus.

Ms. Beverage's devotion to the WPI community extends far past her work responsibilities. She volunteers her time to countless cross-departmental committees and student-focused groups; she helps at commencement each year; she's also known to open her home to dogs who need a place to stay. As an advocate for students, faculty, and staff at WPI, she shares her insight, experience, and knowledge to help others achieve their goals and dreams while simultaneously respecting their own journey. She served for a decade as a chapter advisor for a sorority on campus, helping guide the group from its early days as a brand-new chapter and as the organization matured. She adeptly coached and mentored the students through the natural strains of forming a new group and helped them navigate conflict. As with any good educator, she did not solve problems for the group, but helped the students learn that the answers were within themselves. Under her guidance, Alpha Xi Delta and its officers received many awards, including a national chapter award for academic achievement, recruitment, and philanthropy in 2015. That same year, Ms. Beverage was named the Alpha Xi Delta National Advisor of the Year. Always looking to help students adjust to college life, in 2021 she became a Sophomore Experience, or SophEx, leader to better support students who wished to connect with other students after a nontraditional first-year experience.

Ms. Beverage has also volunteered as a judicial advocate with the Campus Hearing Board. In this role, she supports students through an often unfamiliar and emotional process and has sat alongside many students, including sexual assault survivors, as their support person during hearings. She helps students understand the student conduct process, find resources, and prepare for hearings. With Ms. Beverage as a caring ally and an empathetic listener, students know they have someone they can rely on.

Whether it's for her team, for students, or for colleagues across campus, Ms. Beverage's steady advocacy enables those around her to be the best version of themselves. Her team appreciates her caring approach that offers both a pillar of strength and a launching pad for change. She has created

positive, lasting change in the WPI community, and her impact touches everyone. Smart, driven, and focused on advancing the climate of support and campus accessibility, she works hard to bring all the partners together to make it happen. Put simply, Ms. Beverage embraces the spirit of WPI.

For her years of dedication to the WPI community, we are proud to honor Kate Beverage for the 2023 Denise Nicoletti Trustees' Award for Service to the Community.

Committee

Zoe Reidinger, BME, 2022 Denise Nicoletti Trustees' Award recipient

Barbara Broad, mother of Denise Nicoletti

Kristin Wobbe, Center for Project-based Learning

Sarah Wodin-Schwartz, MME

Julia Quinn-Szcesuil, Marketing Communications

Suzette Santiago, Facilities

Yulin Liu '24 (MS)

George "Mickey" Mikitarian III '25