

Each year, the WPI Board of Trustees honors a WPI faculty member who is an exceptional Academic Advisor. This year's recipient has received praise from multiple students who say this person is friendly, knowledgeable, and goes out of the way to make students feel seen and connected.

WPI is an institution that holds firm to "the founders' directive to create, to discover, and to convey knowledge at the frontiers of academic inquiry for the betterment of society. We believe knowledge is created and discovered in the scholarly activities of faculty and students ranging across educational methodology, professional practice, and basic research." This faculty member puts our mission into practice by making sure students feel welcomed and heard, and have an advisor who not only provides excellent advising but also helps them grow as professionals and people. With that, we recognize the important advising work of Professor Leonard Albano, Associate Professor of Civil, Environmental, and Architectural Engineering.

One of his nominating students shared that Professor Albano "always leaves his door open for students looking for advice or just an ear to talk to. He's always there and very knowledgeable about what classes it would be best to take for you based on your interests." Another student shared that Professor Albano "has been the most incredible advisor and I am extremely grateful for his help and support in my academic career. He is always encouraging and is truly a wealth of knowledge when it comes to anything related to my major. He acts as a mentor figure and frequently makes time to discuss not just classes and schedules but also career and life advice." His advisees also noted that "He never fails to encourage students to do their best and often demands that in his classes, but he will readily notice and acknowledge you for trying and succeeding in those endeavors. When there are department networking nights, you often see alumni making a point to go and talk with him because he stays connected with students after they graduate. He goes above and beyond to make sure everyone is happy and is confident about their course loads. Plus... his glasses are awesome!"

Please join me in congratulating this year's Trustees' Award for Outstanding Academic Advising recipient Dr. Leonard Albano.