

2014 Board of Trustees' Award for Outstanding Academic Advising

Chrysanthe Demetry

Each year, the WPI Board of Trustees presents an honor to a WPI faculty member who is an exceptional Academic Advisor. This year's recipient has received praise from multiple students in which they are described as not only being fully dedicated to the position of faculty advisor, but someone who dedicates their time to the success of the students and in the betterment of WPI as a whole

As all of you in this room can recognize, WPI is a place of pride. As an institution, we take pride in our rigorous academic programs, well-renowned project experience, global perspectives program, and our outstanding alumni, just to name a few. The recipient of this award today is not only closely tied to all of the areas just mentioned, but is so passionate about these values that it brought her back to WPI as a full time faculty member, and academic advisor, years after walking across the bridge to receive her WPI diploma. Based on her nominations from students, faculty, and staff, and her long lasting commitment to the institution, dedication to her advisees, and her drive to always go above and beyond, it is clear that Chrys Demetry embodies all that it means to be an exceptional advisor.

Chrys's dedication to advising goes beyond the course requirements, and deep into the development of her advisees. As stated in her personal approach to advising, she is "a sounding board to help you [the student] figure out who you want to be and the opportunities that might get you there." She also states that, "A strong commitment to excellent teaching and advising is, and will continue to be, the foundation of [her] academic career." One of the students who submitted a recommendation sums these philosophies up nicely by saying, "She wants students to succeed just as much as we want to see ourselves succeed." That same student later says, "She is always smiling and always thinking of us students." It is clear to students that Chrys shares the same drive towards success as her advisees, and that she is willing to provide the best help she can give to better their educational experience at WPI.

Despite having a large case load of students, Chrys develops relationships with her students where she is able to actively challenge and support them, leaving positive lasting impressions. As one of her students says, "She is not hesitant to question the workload of a schedule, but has always accepted my opinion even if it is dissenting." That same student goes on to say, "Her expertise in crafting schedules and her benevolent demeanor are just two reasons why I have constantly sought her counsel." Later saying, "I trust her so much and it is so unfortunate that I will not be able to rely on her advice once I leave college."

Aside from advising, Chrys is the Director of the Morgan Teaching & Learning Center, Associate Professor in Mechanical Engineering, Co-Director of Camp Reach and the Professional Writing Program, and an Insight Faculty member. Being so actively involved makes it clear that Chrys shares the same WPI pride now that she did during her time as a student.

I think we can all agree with one of her letters of recommendation that stated “Chrys is just great.” Please join me in wishing a warm congratulations to this year’s Trustee’s Award for Outstanding Advising Award recipient Chrys Demetry.