

Profile of

Nate Splett

**Associate Dean, College of Agriculture, Food and Environmental Sciences and
Professor of Agricultural Economics, University of Wisconsin-River Falls
2008 Regents Teaching Excellence Award Recipient**

Background and Experience (Selected)

- Joined the UW-River Falls faculty first in 1993 as an instructor in the Department of Agricultural Economics and joined the same department as an Assistant Professor in 1994.
- B.S. in Agricultural Education, UW-River Falls, 1975; M.S in Agricultural Economics, UW-River Falls, 1977; Ph.D. University of Illinois at Champaign-Urbana, 1993.
- Recipient of the UW-River Falls Distinguished Teacher Award, 2006, and the UW-River Falls Advising Award, 2005.
- Recipient of the Second Mile Award from the Wisconsin Association of County Agricultural Agents in recognition of distinguished service.
- Worked on Our Farms documentary and received a grant from Wisconsin Humanities Council., 2001.
- Principal Investigator of two 3-year USDA challenge grants for curriculum infusion in the last decade.
- International Activities in the Nicaraguan Faculty Exchange program and Visiting Lecturer in farm management in Russia.
- Long-time UW-Extension Specialist, “serving UWEX County Agents in their programming efforts”

In Professor Splett’s own words:

- “My credo is ‘Students, Teaching, Purpose’—always for the students, always I teach to the best of my ability, always so that our graduates might fulfill their greater purpose. ... My challenge to students is to meet their greater purpose as the caretakers and shapers of our humanity, environment, and ideals. This is my passion and I remain humble in living it.”
- “My confidence [as a teacher] is rooted in achieving a rapport with my students, and for them to realize that I have a sincere and genuine interest in helping them to learn. While I grade their knowledge, I do not judge them, I fully respect them, and partner with them in their learning experience. “

In the words of his students:

- “His wide variety of teaching techniques helps to keep students engaged. Often times the material is laid out in a manner that can be adjusted to the pace of the students so that non one is left behind. His use of real life examples and humor also brings relevance to the class, making it more useful to students.”

Travis Klinkner, current Agriculture Education Student, UW-River Falls

- “It seemed like without trying, Nate was able to keep the attention of all students at all times. When time had expired for the day, everyone was left yearning for more; somehow the minutes seemed to tick by faster in his classes than in others.”

Michael Brenner, Sales Department, Value Implement, Baldwin, Alumnus of the Agriculture program, UW River Falls

In the words of his colleagues:

- ”Dr. Splett brings a wealth of personal experience to the classroom and strives to balance theory with real world applications. Students past and present appreciate the emphasis he places on teaching them to think critically and to apply themselves to the best of their abilities, engaging them both in and out of the classroom His guidance and assistance does not end with their time at UWRF but extends beyond into their lives and occupations after college. Many consider him a true mentor and invaluable resource.”

Don Betz, Ex-Chancellor, UW-River Falls

- “Nate’s door is always open to students who are challenged by the material presented in class or who need mentoring. He is an excellent listener and has way of connecting with students that is something special.”

Connie Foster, Chancellor, UW-River Falls (at the time, Provost of UWRF)