

IDEas: Fall Highlights



OFFICE OF ONLINE & PROFESSIONAL
LEARNING RESOURCES

Office of Online & Professional Learning Resources (OPLR) Strategies and News for Fall 2025



Faculty Symposium, New AI Course for Students, and Podcast

This issue begins with a preview of the 2025 Virtual Faculty Symposium and introduces our new student-focused AI training, created to help learners navigate AI with confidence in both academic and professional settings. You'll also find our latest podcast episode with Erik Johnson from UW-River Falls, where he shares how he teaches media literacy through interactive exercises that invite students to examine their own media habits, evaluate fake news, and more. Finally, we close with practical tips for virtual networking. We hope you'll make new connections this fall and carry fresh ideas into the days ahead.

Featured: Join Us for the 2025 Virtual Faculty Symposium

[Join us for the 2025 Virtual Faculty Symposium](#)—an afternoon of practical strategies and fresh ideas from your colleagues. From community building to AI-enhanced course design, this fully online event showcases innovative teaching approaches you can bring back to your own classroom.

Preview OPLR's AI Literacy Course for Students

Learn how [OPLR's new AI training course can help students make sense of AI](#) while developing the skills to use these tools in ethical, responsible, and strategic ways. This course offers hands-on practice, critical reflection, and career-ready learning that gives students a strong foundation for using these tools.

Get in Touch

If you have an idea for an article or would like to contribute, let us know!

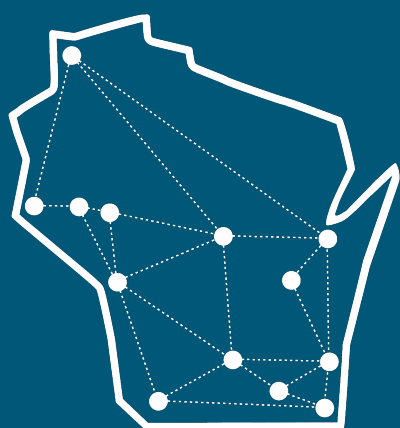
Faculty Spotlight: Prof. Erik Johnson on the IDEas Faculty Podcast

UW-River Falls professor Erik Johnson shares his approach to teaching media literacy through active, hands-on learning [by asking students to track and reflect on their own media consumption, identify fake news and AI-generated content, and more.](#)

This lively episode showcases how strategies like these can make for an engaging and meaningful online course and connect with students across generations and backgrounds.



[Erik Johnson](#), Professor, Department of Music and Stage and Screen Arts, UW-River Falls



Reminder: OPLR Virtual Faculty Symposium

Monday, September 29, 2025 |
1:00 pm to 4:30 pm

[Link to Register](#)

Send questions to Inga Dilla at
Inga.Dilla@uwex.wisconsin.edu

Want More?

Virtual Networking Tips

Since our faculty symposium is fully online this year, here are some quick tips for virtually connecting with your colleagues:

- ☐ **Plan your schedule in advance.** Look through the conference agenda and pick the sessions that matter most to you. Jot down times, topics, and speakers in a notebook or calendar.
- ☐ **Ask questions during sessions.** Use the chat or Q&A feature to ask thoughtful questions. Even short comments can start a conversation.
- ☐ **Get in touch after a session.** If a presenter's work interests you, send a short email or LinkedIn message. You can share your CV, ask a follow-up question, or just say you enjoyed their talk.
- ☐ **Take small actions to connect with others.** Whether it's sending a link to a colleague, sharing a useful resource, or commenting on someone's point in a discussion, small gestures can make virtual conferences feel more personal.
- ☐ **Debrief with colleagues.** After the seminar wraps, invite a few colleagues to your office or another favorite spot on campus to discuss your takeaways and share ideas.



What are your favorite ways of connecting at a virtual conference?

OPLR Symposium - Select one response:

Sharing contact information with a speaker

Having a few questions prepared ahead of time

Reaching out to fellow attendees afterward to share ideas

Debriefing with colleagues at a favorite place

I don't know, but I want to try some of these tips!

Check out this issue's
featured example from the
*Instructional Strategies &
Course Design Showcase*



About the Showcase: Developed by the ID team, the [Instructional Strategies & Course Design Showcase](#) highlights examples from online courses created by Universities of Wisconsin faculty and instructors that demonstrate best practices in online teaching and learning.

[Explore more resources from the Office of Online & Professional Learning Resources](#)

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