

College of Education UFC Report

February 9th, 2026

Submitted by: Pete Kelly

- The College of Education hosted our annual District Day on Monday, February 9th from 2:30 - 6:30 in Seacobeck Hall. We had representatives from 15 school divisions as well as the UMW Career Center. This event offered UMW COE students the opportunity to discover the wide range of job opportunities that are available in school divisions, including substitute teaching and tutoring.
- The COE hosted the 4th annual Maker Mindset Conference on February 7th at the Academy for Technology and Innovation. The conference offered interactive sessions for local K-12 educators and future educators from the COE with a focus on integrating hands-on problem-based learning, STEM activities, and AI in teaching. There were more than 20 different sessions offered by COE faculty, staff, alumni, K-12 teachers, and ATI students.
- MSN Update: Dr. Elizabeth Ritt continues her work as the interim director of the MSN program to lead efforts to prepare for its fall 2026 launch. She is currently focused on curriculum review, accreditation preparation, facilities planning, and student recruitment. A search for a combined clinical placement/admin position has begun. Elizabeth's contract runs through June as we continue the search for a permanent director.
- The College of Education continues to work in collaboration with our K-12 colleagues to get elementary and middle school students excited about STEM learning. Often working with our Jepson colleagues, we hosted nine field trips that brought in about 650 students to campus during the fall semester. These field trips create powerful learning experiences for gifted students, and for students with disabilities. They also serve as opportunities for our students preparing to be teachers to develop and implement STEM focused lessons.