

CAMPUS & COMMUNITY

From Campus to Career

Aidan Salama
asalama@uwsuper.edu

For Mika Ella Matias, a University of Wisconsin-Superior senior who is double-majoring in computer science and mathematics, professional growth began with involvement rather than work experience.

Matias left the Philippines and enrolled in college without any prior career history, but she found her calling through student organizations and on-campus employment.

“I didn’t have much practical experience at first,” Matias said. “So I relied on the leadership skills I

developed in student organizations to show that I could learn fast and handle responsibility.” Her involvement in the Sustainability Club and the Math and Computer Science Club expanded her knowledge and confidence. Managing events, coordinating travel, and working with advisors taught her how to lead and communicate effectively. “It really pushed me out of my comfort zone,” Matias said. “I used to be quiet and reserved, but I had to step up and guide others. That’s where my confidence came from.”

That same message of motivation and experience was emphasized by keynote

speaker Naeem Khan at Miami’s Fashion Week Summit on Oct. 23. The Indian-born American fashion designer, known for dressing Michelle Obama and Beyoncé, reflected on the dedication required to build a meaningful career. He spoke about starting small and working relentlessly toward success. “Nothing happens overnight,” Khan said. “You have to keep learning, keep showing up, and believe in your vision. When you do that, opportunities start to find you.” He encouraged students to focus on their passion and take every opportunity seriously.



Miami Fashion Week Press conference at Freedom Tower, featuring Executive Director of Miami Fashion week. Lourdes Fernandez-Velasco, Commissioner Oliver G. Gilbert, III, and Celebrity Fashion Designer Naeem Khan on Oct 20. Photo by Aidan Salama | Promethean

“Every connection, every bit of experience adds up,” Khan said. “If you put in the work, your time will come.” At UWS, students like Matias show that professional success starts not with an

age or award, but with motivation and participation.

City of Superior Common Council Meeting

Liberti Jonas-Jongebloed
ljonasjo@uwsuper.edu

The Superior Common Council met Tuesday, Oct. 21, approving a series of public safety measures and redevelopment actions while reviewing the city’s proposed 2026 budget. The meeting opened with a public hearing on the proposed vacation of Baxter Avenue. With no objections from residents, the council unanimously approved the resolution to discontinue the street.

Mayor’s Report:

Mayor Paine announced that final designs for the city’s new fire station are nearing completion and will soon go before the Plan Commission for review. The facility may also include non-fire related public services for the community.

Paine also praised residents for their creativity in making Superior “the Halloween capital of Wisconsin, or even the upper Midwest.” He encouraged residents to participate in a weekend full of Halloween events. Beginning with the Superior Nightmare 5K hosted by the Grandma’s Marathon organization, a Halloween parade at 12:30 p.m. on Saturday, Oct. 25, and the city’s growing tradition of closing Hammond Avenue between Belknap and 28th Street to allow safe trick-or-treating on Halloween night. “If you haven’t seen

what that looks like, go walk down those streets,” Paine said. “It’s going to be a pretty cool sight.”

Public Art Commission Appointments:

The Common Council unanimously approved several reappointments to the Public Art Commission, including Heidi Blunt, Lindsey Graskey, Paul Robinson, Carolyn Nelson-Kavajecz, and Mollie Gilbertson, with new terms expiring in May 2026.

Public Works and Safety Updates:

The Council approved an agreement with the Wisconsin Department of Transportation for design work related to the “Agreement for Payment for Design Related to Phase II of the Blatnik Bridge Sanitary Sewer Relocation Project.”

Councilor Tylor Elm, reported for the Public Safety Committee, “the Fire Department has handled roughly 3,400 calls so far this year.” They have also continued outreach efforts during Fire Prevention Month with local schools. Additionally, new AED kiosks have been installed at Barker’s Island and Loon’s Foot Landing for public access.

On behalf of Police Chief Paul Winterscheid, Councilor Elm reported that overall call volumes are up about 4% this year, but major crimes, including shoplifting, burglary, and

vehicle theft, have decreased.

The department received a \$5,000 Cenovus grant to fund internships for local criminal justice students. The Superior Police Department Memorandum about the grant stated, “Specifically, the grant supports \$2,000 for internship stipends, and \$3,000 for supplies and other expendable items to support student organization field trips and recruiting efforts.”

The Superior Police Department will also welcome three new recruits to the police academy in January. Additionally, the Public Safety committee also voted to prohibit waterfowl hunting and firearm discharge near Grassy Point; Councilor Elm cited increased development of the area and safety concerns.

Councilors unanimously approved three amendments to the city’s traffic code designed to improve safety and flow in residential neighborhoods:

- Ordinance O25-4400 adds 53rd Avenue East and East 1st Street to the “no parking on even-numbered side of street” list.
- Ordinance O25-4401 removes the two-way stop at Ogden Avenue and 18th Street.
- Ordinance O25-4402 designates the same intersection, N 18th Street at Ogden Avenue, as a three-way stop.

Redevelopment and Planning Business:

Vice President Herrick discussed the approval of the sale of several small city-owned parcels to the Wisconsin Department of Transportation to support the Blatnik Bridge reconstruction.

The chair of the Plan Commission Councilor Craig Fennessey reported approval of multiple small business grants and discussed ways to refine the program, which remains financially strong. Councilor Jack Sweeney requested a report detailing all grants awarded over the past three years.

2026 Budget Discussion:

The council reviewed the city’s proposed 2026 budget but voted to postpone final adoption until its next meeting, when a public hearing will be held. Councilor Fennessey asked for clarification regarding new debt service payments tied to the fire hall project. Paine said the projected 2026 debt costs were included but agreed to confirm details with the finance department for the next meeting.

The council’s next session is on Nov. 4, which will include the public hearing and possible adoption of the 2026 budget. Media covering the meeting and minutes can be found at <https://www.superiorwi.gov/agenda-center>

Universities of Wisconsin Propose Policy to Guarantee Transfer of Core General Education Courses

Liberti Jonas-Jongebloed
ljonasjo@uwsuper.edu

The Universities of Wisconsin (UW System) are proposing a new policy to ensure that all core general education courses are transferable among the system’s 13 universities.

The policy would guarantee that credits earned in core general education courses at one UW campus apply toward graduation requirements at another. The plan calls for between 30 and 36 credit hours, which is equivalent to 10 to 12 courses, across six curricular categories that would be consistent across the UW system.

The categorizes that are currently under examination include: Communication and English Humanities and Social or Behavioral Science Quantitative Skills and Critical Thinking Physical and Natural Science Global, Cultural, Ethnic Studies, and Wellness

“The success of our students is paramount,” said Universities of Wisconsin President Jay Roth-

man in a publication by the UW System. “Nothing should keep students from pursuing their dreams, and this policy puts students first.”

- If adopted, the new policy would:
- Standardize core general education requirements across all UW campuses.
 - Ensure college credits earned in high school through dual-enrollment programs transfer as credits earned in college.
 - Strengthen transfer pathways between the UW system and the Wisconsin Technical College System.
 - Ensure general education credits remain applicable after transfer.
 - Shorten time to degree and lower overall costs for transferring students.

Currently, core general education requirements vary across campuses. While credits often transfer, how they apply toward degree requirements can differ. The proposal seeks to remove that inconsistency and guarantee uniform credit applicability.

The Board of Regents is expected to review the proposal this fall. If approved, the policy would take effect for undergraduate students entering the UW system in fall 2026.

The draft policy is available for review at <https://www.wisconsin.edu/act-15-cger/>



Outside of Swenson Hall. Taken Nov. 3. Photo by Alicia Zoltowski | Promethean