

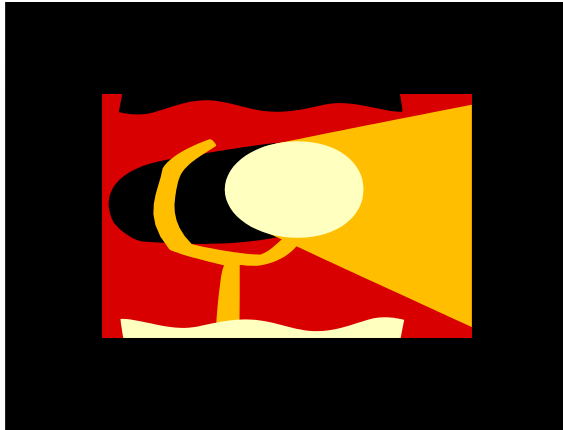
# MIDWEST ACE E-NEWS

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## Midwest ACE SPOTLIGHT ON: Trent Dernbach, Winona State University-Rochester

*Trent Dernbach*

internship/practicum.

By Trent Dernbach, Student Success & Career Advisor, Winona State University-Rochester

This month the Communication & Marketing Committee is pleased to bring you a spotlight on the current (and outgoing) Chair of the Communication & Marketing Committee: Trent Dernbach at Winona State University-Rochester.

### 1. Name

Trent Dernbach

### 2. Institution/Title

Winona State University-Rochester  
Student Success & Career Advisor

### 3. Work History (Past places of employment and position titles)

Prior to WSU-R, I worked as a Career Counselor at Grinnell College with Kathleen Powell and Mike Caldwell. Before that, I was a Graduate Assistant in the Career Development Center at Minnesota State University, Mankato, where I was also fortunate to teach the undergraduate course "Career & Life Decision Making" for my

In my previous life, I worked in the Wisconsin Rapids Job Center as an Employment & Training Specialist (fancy name for a case manager) for the WIA Dislocated Worker Program.

### 4. Education History (School/Degree)

Minnesota State University, Mankato - Master of Science in Counseling & Student Personnel: College Student Affairs - 2008

University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point - Master of Arts in Communication - 2000

University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point - Bachelor of Arts in English & Communication - 1997

### 5. Past and Current Leadership Roles in Midwest ACE

Since joining the association in 2008, I have served on the Communication & Marketing Committee and have acted as Chair since July 2009.

**6. What is your favorite part of your current position?**

I guess I would have to address that in a couple of different ways. Professionally, I like that I am able to continue working in career services helping students with career preparation (resumes, interviews, job search, etc.) since that is my current area of expertise, as well as learning new career services roles such as employer outreach (which is a real challenge for me since I am not much of a networker). However, my new position will also have me provide general academic advising to current and potential students, which is something I have always had an interest in doing. I also really enjoy the close working relationships I have with the staff at WSU-R—being a branch campus, we are a small group and really need to enjoy each other so we can get things done!

Personally, I like that my wife Nicole, our Boston Terrier Gimli, and I are all within 3 hours of our families in Wisconsin, so we are able to visit more frequently. Rochester also has a lot to offer us in terms of culture and entertainment, like the Honkers!

**7. Where do you see yourself in 5 years?**

Ideally, I would love to be a touring musician with an acoustic-metal band or a stand-up comedian, except that I can't play an instrument and I'm not very funny. If not that, then hopefully having my new position figured out! Maybe a karaoke business on the side.

**8. What is your favorite moment in Midwest ACE?**

Surviving my first committee meeting as a Chair. Leading a group is hard when you are an introverted extrovert like I am.

**9. Recent Achievements/Honors (Work related or personal)**

What can I say? There have been so many. Actually, I did win a regional karaoke contest a few years ago in central Wisconsin and got to the finals where I lost. I cannot share the name of the song here, but ask me at the conference! Rest assured it is not a song you would expect to see a 6'2", 300-pound man singing.

**10. Describe yourself in one word.**

Nerd (and I don't mean those little crunchy candies that turn your tongue a different color). I'm serious—who else but a nerd would name their dog Gimli, son of Gloin (if you know where this comes from, you too may be a nerd) and debating whether Jason was scarier in the original or new "Friday The 13<sup>th</sup>" films due to him being seen more as a supernatural force who just keeps showing up in the originals or a clever and cunning hunter using an elaborate system of underground tunnels to quickly get to various parts of the Crystal Lake campground. I told you!

**11. Tell us about your most embarrassing moment.**

Well, there are many, but two that I can safely share here relate to my career. One time I put off applying for a job so long that I missed the deadline by one day, and another time I sent a resume and cover letter in for a job with the wrong job title in my objective and the wrong name and address of the organization (I completely ignored the rule of PROOFREADING!). So now I am a career counselor. Maybe this is one of those examples of the old saying, "Those that can't do, teach."

**12. What's your favorite...**

Okay, this is the fun part.

Sport: Rugby

Pro sports team(s): Green Bay Packers and Milwaukee Brewers

College team(s): Wisconsin Badgers and Winona State University Warriors

Music: Honestly, as long as it is good, I am not discriminatory towards any genres. Everything from metal to classical. Some of my favorite musicians/bands include: Tool, Deftones, Slayer, Johnny Cash, Metallica, Iron & Wine, Nine Inch Nails, Nirvana, Hank Williams, Hank Williams III, Ice Cube, Techn9ne, Sunn O))), Skinny Puppy, Dwight Yoakam, Sigur Ros, Chopin, and Kelly Clarkson.

**Movies:** Jaws, the Lord of the Rings, Star Wars (the original trilogy), The Thing, Halloween (the original), Night of the Living Dead, Dawn of the Dead, Day of the Dead, Major League, Monty Python and the Holy Grail, the Underworld series, and Men At Work (there are way too many to list).

**Foods:** Anything Mexican. You really cannot go wrong with something in a tortilla. Pizza is good as well.

**Beverages:** On weekends, beer, especially Heineken or Foster's. I also enjoy trying local microbrews.

**Animals:** Sharks and bats. Two very misunderstood creatures.

**Dogs:** Boston Terriers, Boxers, and Pit Bulls. I would love to be able to rescue a pit bull someday (another misunderstood creature).

**Wife:** Nicole Dernbach.

### In Closing:

I just would like to send out a special message to all of my Communication & Marketing Committee members who were incredible to work with and provided me the guidance and support I needed to make it through my first experience as a Chair! It was a daunting task but you all made it very manageable and enjoyable for me! I look forward to staying on as a committee member and seeing where we can take Midwest ACE over the next few years. Thanks again!

Trent

**Be sure to check out more  
Midwest ACE E-News  
next month!**

### About the author

*Trent Dernbach is currently the Student Success & Career Advisor at Winona State University-Rochester in Rochester, MN. Previously, he worked as a Career Counselor for Grinnell College after completing his Master's Degree in Counseling & Student Personnel at Minnesota State University, Mankato. Trent also worked in Wisconsin with the WIA Dislocated Workers Program.*

