HEATHER K. DAVIDSON
Instructor, Department of Communication Studies, College of Humanities and Social Sciences

Heather brings a background in adult education, nonprofit development, grassroots community advocacy and fundraising to her courses in Professional Communication, Fundraising, Conference and Event Planning, and Advocacy through Media. In her first year at Western she facilitated over 2,100 hours of service-learning, connecting student teams to over 50 community and campus partners. Most notably, students in her Communication in Fundraising course developed an accessible philanthropy campaign to raise scholarship funds for Western students. Working with dozens of businesses, campus representatives, and community members the students brought over $9,000 in support. The result is the #WeAreWWU Scholarship, an annual award to be given to multiple students and raised through the student-driven initiative in her courses. She also serves as a Community Engagement Faculty Fellow with the Center for Service-Learning. This year she was recognized by the Center for Instructional Innovation and Assessment’s Innovative Teaching Showcase for her use of empathy to infuse diverse perspectives in her curriculum. Her innovative thinking, fearless community outreach, interdisciplinary approach and pursuit of meaningful experiences for her students have created and reinforced a number of fruitful, meaningful relationships for Western, for Whatcom County, and, most importantly, her students.

Carl H. Simpson worked at Western for 25 years as a professor and administrator, and was dedicated to building bridges between intellectual, interpersonal and administrative worlds. He acknowledged people’s strengths and helped them find and give their best. He sought to unite divisions within academia through kindness, enthusiasm and creativity. The Carl H. Simpson Bridging Award recognizes and supports efforts to create bridges and forge new paths for others to follow and build upon. The award benefits a WWU student, staff, or faculty member who has demonstrated an innovative approach to bridging an aspect of academic or campus life and bettering the Western community. The award includes $1,000 stipend made possible through the Carl H. Simpson “Bridging” Fund endowment.