



Nerissa Nelson
Stevens Point

Librarian/Professor
University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point

Nerissa Nelson serves as Vice Chair of the Wisconsin Women's Council. She was appointed by Gov. Tony Evers in 2019. Originally from Chicago, she has lived in Stevens Point for over 20 years.

Nerissa is an academic librarian and Professor at the University of Wisconsin–Stevens Point, where she teaches, provides research and reference support, and oversees library programming and marketing initiatives. She coordinates the Foundation Collection, helping local nonprofits navigate digital funding resources and supporting their grant-seeking efforts. She also previously served as Coordinator of UWSP's Women's and Gender Studies program.

A committed advocate for higher education and worker rights, Nerissa has held officer positions in the AFT-affiliated faculty and staff union (SPARC, Local 6505) and served as Chair of the Campus Common Council for one term, contributing nearly two decades to shared governance.

Nerissa is also a lifelong supporter of the arts. She performed with the Chicago City Ballet and Boston Ballet many years ago, trained in Chicago, Boston, and New York City, and has taught ballet across Central Wisconsin. She co-directed the nonprofit Point Dance Ensemble and currently teaches adult ballet classes while pursuing certification to teach older adults. She has served on the CREATE Portage County Board and Stevens Point Arts Grants Committee, helping establish the city's first Arts Advisory Council.

Her academic research spans predatory publishing in librarianship and collaborative feminist digital writing projects, exploring how public storytelling and online spaces shape whose voices are amplified or silenced.

Nerissa joined the Wisconsin Women's Council to elevate women's voices and advance equity, representation, and opportunity across the state.