Excellence through Civility

Be engaged
Take ownership of something that contributes in a positive way to your community.

A community works best when all members feel included and desire to be involved. In order to make this possible, each community member needs to play an active role. In all positive communities, each member pays attention to their surroundings and actively works to find solutions to whatever problems arise. Each community member practices tolerance, acceptance, and active appreciation allowing for the free exchange of a wide variety of ideas while actively promoting debate and disagreement. If all community members work on whatever motivates them, positive changes will occur.

Take Responsibility
Hold yourself responsible to make a positive difference.

In a civil society, diversity is cherished and encouraged to flourish. To sustain this ideal, people need to exercise self-responsibility that allows ALL people to be actively engaged in their community. For that reason, responsible people seek to understand the viewpoint of others and hold themselves accountable for their own behavior so that civil interaction, not divisiveness, is promoted. Responsible individuals acknowledge their own mistakes so that blame is not directed at innocent people. They attentively listen to others, without self-interest, so that a greater understanding can emerge for the greater good. Therefore, self-responsibility perpetuates civil interactions as everyone is holding themselves to a higher standard of behavior.

Show Respect to Others
Honor other people and their opinions, especially when they differ from you.

Other people have a right to their opinions just as you have a right to yours. This does not diminish your values and convictions, but rather allows an opportunity to reinforce and refine your belief system. Give constructive criticism and be willing to accept it in return. Community members can and should express their beliefs with poise and grace, even if they disagree on the issues. Remember to separate the person from the disagreement. Respectful discourse involves listening and responding in a manner that validates the others’ importance.

Promote Integrity
Hold others and yourself responsible for maintaining excellence within the community.

Hold yourself and others to a high standard of integrity and fairness which is demanded in a civil society. As a University community, it is particularly important to hold all members to a high level of academic integrity. Taking action to encourage integrity is the responsibility of every community member and works to the greater good of the community.

Recognize Civility
Realize small acts generate large results.

In your everyday life, take note of the small acts of civility. A positive attitude encourages others to respond in a similar manner. Seemingly insignificant positive acts generate large dividends for the community. Make these small gestures important in your interactions with peers, faculty, and staff. Celebrate the kindness and respect shown to you.  

http://www.uwec.edu/civility/