UW-River Falls is the recipient of the April Division III Diversity Spotlight Initiative. Recently, the UW-River Falls athletics diversity council, Falcons United, hosted a day that included two workshops that focused on supporting transgender student-athletes. The athletics department has adopted a policy of inclusion for transgender student-athletes, and one component of the policy is to provide education to all the coaches, staff and student-athletes to better understand how to support these individuals in the many obstacles they face. Two workshops were done on Friday, April 13 with Dr. Alexandra Hall. Dr. Hall is a professor of biology at UW-Stout and provides medical treatment and support for transgender individuals.

Dr. Hall completed one workshop in the morning just for the student-athletes that focused on what being transgender means and how they can be supportive to their teammates. In the afternoon, Dr. Hall presented for all UW-River Falls coaches and staff about the biology of transgender individuals, highlighting the obstacles they would face as student-athletes, and working through case studies to help the staff better understand the various scenarios they could face when recruiting or coaching a transgender student-athlete.

Falcons United is an initiative to raise awareness of and support for diversity and inclusion within the athletics department at UW-River Falls. Falcons United strives to promote leadership, diversity and inclusion among our student-athletes, coaches and staff, and fans to enhance each group’s overall experience and create a welcoming environment for everyone. This year the group has hosted workshops on combating microaggressions, LGBTQ ally training, privilege, and more. (http://uwrfsports.com/sports/2017/3/17/falcons-united.aspx?id=948)