



Post-Secondary Nominee Presentation Form

ELIGIBILITY CERTIFICATIONS

College or University Certifications

The signature of college or university President (or equivalent) on the next page certifies that each of the statements below concerning the institution’s eligibility and compliance with the following requirements is true and correct to the best of their knowledge.

- 1. The college or university has been evaluated and selected from among institutions within the Nominating Authority’s jurisdiction, based on high achievement in the three ED-GRS Pillars: 1) reduced environmental impact and costs; 2) improved health and wellness; and 3) effective environmental and sustainability education.
2. The college or university is providing the U.S. Department of Education Office of Civil Rights (OCR) access to information necessary to investigate a civil rights complaint or to conduct a compliance review.
3. OCR has not issued a violation letter of findings to the college or university concluding that the nominated college or university has violated one or more of the civil rights statutes. A violation letter of findings will not be considered outstanding if OCR has accepted a corrective action plan to remedy the violation.
4. The U.S. Department of Justice does not have a pending suit alleging that the college or university has violated one or more of the civil rights statutes or the Constitution’s equal protection clause.
5. There are no findings by Federal Student Aid of violations in respect to the administration of Title IV student aid funds.
6. The college or university is in good standing with its regional or national accreditor.
7. The college or university meets all applicable federal, state, local and tribal health, environmental and safety requirements in law, regulations and policy and is willing to undergo EPA on-site verification.

U.S. Department of Education Green Ribbon Schools Postsecondary 2015-2018

X Public 4-Year Public 2-Year Private Non-Profit

Chancellor: Dr. Bernie L. Patterson (Specify: Ms., Miss, Mrs., Dr., Mr., etc.) (As it should appear in the official records)

Official College or University Name: University of Wisconsin – Stevens Point (As it should appear on an award)

College or University Street Mailing Address: 2100 Main Street, Stevens Point, WI 54481 (If address is P.O. Box, also include street address.)

County: Portage IPEDS Number\*: 240480 Telephone: 715-346-2123 Fax: 715-346-4841 Web site/URL: www.uwsp.edu E-mail: Chancellor.Bernie.Patterson@uwsp.edu

\*Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System

I have reviewed the information in this application and certify that to the best of my knowledge all information is accurate.

Bernie L. Patterson (President’s/Chancellor’s Signature)

Date: January 23, 2017

## Nominating Authority's Certifications

The signature by the Nominating Authority on this page certifies that each of the statements below concerning the college or university's eligibility and compliance with the following requirements is true and correct to the best of the Authority's knowledge.

1. The college or university has been evaluated and selected from among institutions within the Nominating Authority's jurisdiction, based on high achievement in the three ED-GRS Pillars: 1) reduced environmental impact and costs; 2) improved health and wellness; and 3) effective environmental and sustainability education.
2. The college or university meets all applicable federal, state, local and tribal health, environmental and safety requirements in law, regulations and policy and is willing to undergo EPA on-site verification.

Name of Nominating Agency: University of Wisconsin System

Name of Nominating Authority: Dr. Raymond W. Cross

(Specify: Ms., Miss, Mrs., Dr., Mr., Other)

I have reviewed the information in this application and certify to the best of my knowledge that the school meets the provisions above.



Date: January 23, 2017

(Nominating Authority's Signature)

## SUMMARY AND DOCUMENTATION OF NOMINEE'S ACHIEVEMENTS

Provide a coherent summary that describes how your college or university is representative of your jurisdiction's highest achieving green school efforts. Summarize your strengths and accomplishments in all three Pillars and their underlying Elements. Then, include concrete examples for work in every Pillar and Element. Only institutions that document progress in every Pillar and Element can be considered for this award.

## SUBMISSION

The nomination package, including the signed certifications and documentation of evaluation in the three Pillars should be converted to a PDF file and emailed to [green.ribbon.schools@ed.gov](mailto:green.ribbon.schools@ed.gov) according to the instructions in the Nominee Submission Procedure.

OMB Control Number: 1860-0509

Expiration Date: March 31, 2018

### Public Burden Statement

According to the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, no persons are required to respond to a collection of information unless such collection displays a valid OMB control number. The valid OMB control number for this information collection is 1860-0509. Public reporting burden for this collection of information is estimated to average 37 hours per response, including time for reviewing instructions, searching existing data sources, gathering and maintaining the data needed, and completing and reviewing the collection of information. The obligation to respond to this collection is required to obtain or retain benefit P.L. 107-110, Sec. 501, Innovative Programs and Parental Choice Provisions. Send comments regarding the burden estimate or any other aspect of this collection of information, including suggestions for reducing this burden, to the U.S. Department of Education, 400 Maryland Ave., SW, Washington, DC 20202-4536 or email [ICDocketMgr@ed.gov](mailto:ICDocketMgr@ed.gov) and reference the OMB Control Number 1860-0509. Note: Please do not return the completed ED-Green Ribbon Schools application to this address.



## Wisconsin Post-Secondary Institution Application

### Application

College/University Name: University of Wisconsin – Stevens Point

Street Address: 2100 Main Street

City: Stevens Point State: WI Zip: 54481

Website: [www.uwsp.edu](http://www.uwsp.edu)

President/Chancellor Name: Chancellor Bernie Patterson

President/Chancellor Email Address: [sbrandlr@uwsp.edu](mailto:sbrandlr@uwsp.edu) (Admin. Asst.) Phone Number: 715-346-2123

<p>Basic Carnegie Classification</p>	<p>Master's M: Master's Colleges and Universities (medium programs)  <small>Source: Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching, Carnegie Classifications Data File, February , 2012.</small></p>	<p>Minority-Serving Institution (check all that apply):</p> <p>N/A _____</p> <p>AANAPISI _____</p> <p>ANNH _____</p> <p>HBCU _____</p> <p>HSI _____</p> <p>NASNTI _____</p> <p>PBI _____</p> <p>TCU _____</p>
<p>Enrollment Profile</p>	<p>Size and setting</p> <p>Undergraduate Enrollment: <u>8869 Fall 2015</u></p> <p>Graduate Enrollment: <u>396 Fall 2015</u></p> <p>Percent of Undergraduates Receiving Pell Grants: <u>36%</u></p>	<p>Graduation rate (150% of normal time): <u>64% (2009 Cohort)</u></p> <p>Average Institutional Net Price: \$11,547</p> <p><a href="https://www.wisconsin.edu/accountability/cost-and-efficiency/">https://www.wisconsin.edu/accountability/cost-and-efficiency/</a></p>



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### Questions and Narrative

1. Is your college or university participating in a local, state or national program which asks you to benchmark progress in some fashion in any or all of the Pillars?

Yes  No Program(s) and level(s) achieved:

Association for the Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Education (AASHE) STARS Gold

American Colleges and Universities Presidents Climate Commitment

2. Has your college or university received any awards for facilities, health or environment?

Yes  No Award(s) and year(s)



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### Pillar I: Reduced Environmental Impact and Costs

The University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point is a gold rated institution with the Association for the Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Education (AASHE) Sustainability Tracking, Assessment & Rating System (STARS) and is quickly becoming one of the premier sustainability focused schools in Wisconsin and the Midwest. The university continues to move forward with innovative programs that show its commitment to sustainability and reduction of its environmental impact, while working to educate its students to do the same after they graduate. In 2011 the Chancellor of UW-Stevens Point officially signed the university's Carbon Neutrality Plan (CNP) that has led it down a path to carbon neutrality by 2050. The CNP's first benchmark year is 2020 with a goal of 25 percent reduction in greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions.

In the last 18 months, UW-Stevens Point has undertaken a variety of initiatives to help ensure that it meets the 2020 benchmark goal that is set forth in the Carbon Neutrality Plan. The university was one of only 13 institutions to partner with Chevrolet on its Campus Clean Energy Campaign, a program that earned EPA's Climate Leadership Award. As a result, UW-Stevens Point received compensation for reducing coal use, which reduced costs, reduced GHG emissions, and created a cleaner environment for the university. UW-Stevens Point's energy conservation performance had to rank among the top 15 percent of universities in the nation to be eligible to partner with Chevrolet in this innovative program. The success of the Campus Clean Energy Campaign led to the Carbon Credit and Purchasing Program (C2P2), an initiative of Second Nature, of which UW-Stevens Point is one of six initial participating universities. Secondly, in spring 2016, through investments supported by university administration, UW-Stevens Point purchased the necessary additional Renewable Energy Credits (RECs) from its current REC provider, Renewable Choice Energy, to become the first higher education institution in the state to be able to claim that the whole campus and field stations are powered by 100 percent renewable electricity. Currently, the university is in the process of completing a performance contract with an [Energy Service Company \(ESCO\)](#) that is focused on implementing a variety of energy conservation measures across the campus. When finalized and implemented these measures are expected to reach a 10 percent or more reduction in campus' GHG emissions from its 2007 benchmarking figures. All of these measures, along with a variety of other sustainability programs, will help ensure that the 2020 target GHG emissions reduction is met.

Fall 2016, UW-Stevens Point expanded its composting program campuswide. Residence hall composting began in 2012 of which food waste is delivered to the on-campus Waste Education Center (WEC) after being sifted off campus. Compostable material is then processed as a "compost tea" for natural fertilizing campus landscape and grounds. Total composted material in FY14 was 97,231 pounds, up from 80,057 pounds in FY13. Starting fall 2016, compostable materials are now collected in all buildings on campus. The success of this initiative was a result of careful planning, pilot testing, cooperation across departments, building occupants' satisfaction with the program's infrastructure, and university administration approval. Waste diversion from landfills is expected to greatly increase as a result of expanding the compostable program campus wide from the residential building composting initiative that was already proven successful.

The UW-Stevens Point Student [Greenfund](#) is supported through segregated student fees to fund campus sustainability based projects. Through this fund, students have funded a \$100,000 green roof on a new science building which is



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currently under construction. An electric utility vehicle, which is charged via solar photovoltaics, was purchased through the Greenfund for one of the field stations. Most recently, students have financed the construction of the campus's first bike shelter that houses over 40 bikes. Similar bike shelters are also included with the new science building and will play an important role in improving the bike transportation program on campus. These infrastructure gains are supported by a newly formed Pedestrian and Bike Safety Committee that is charged with producing a bike and pedestrian safety plan for the campus. The [Student Government Association](#) provides free public bus service for all students and formed a partnership with [Zimride](#), a private ridesharing network, as a way to promote a variety of alternative transportation choices. Students can also join a Rideshare Facebook page.

The campus has undertaken a wide array of measures to help support positive water use on campus and off. The irrigation system is computer controlled and supported by external rain sensors for optimal and minimal use. Outdated water fountains are updated with water bottle refill compatibility. A ban on the sale of bottled water on campus has been in effect since 2009. The university also helped to complete the [Moses Creek Restoration Project](#) by collecting data on wetland delineation and groundwater monitoring which restored 17 acres to its natural habitat. The resulting project naturalized 4,300 feet of Moses Creek, and earned a 2013 Federal Highway Administration Environmental Excellence Award.

A number of initiatives have been enacted on campus to help divert stormwater runoff more sustainably. This includes the installation of a [green roof](#) on our library in 2005 and construction of six raingardens around campus. An underground manifold system along with retention ponds are part of all new parking lot construction which helps to mitigate stormwater runoff that enters the city and county sewer systems to a frequency of once every 25-50 years.

The university is also in the process of finalizing its edible landscaping program. Student organizations are collaborating with Facility Services to expand and educate students and the public about edible plants that are used in landscaping on campus grounds on an annual basis.

The Waste Education Center (WEC) is an extraordinary facility that functions as a materials recycling and composting facility for UW-Stevens Point processing cans, bottles, plastic, cardboard and food waste on campus while providing research and training in sustainable waste management practices including landfill management, recycling, composting, hazardous waste management, and wastewater treatment. The university's recycling program has resulted in over 560 tons of avoided landfill waste annually. Additionally, Facility Services received \$20,619 savings in avoided landfill tipping fees in fiscal year (FY) 2014 up from \$16,983 in FY13. The surplus property program, which has now been in operation for over 20 years, manages a retail store where obsolete or unneeded items are resold. In FY14, the Surplus Store repurposed or recycled, 423,386 pounds of "waste" up from 384,811 pounds in FY13. These programs in collaboration with the composting program show the university's strong commitment to waste reduction and minimization.

The above examples are some of the main initiatives the university has taken to reduce its environmental impact while also reducing costs.



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### **Pillar 2: Improve the health and wellness of students, faculty and staff**

UW-Stevens Point serves the health and wellness interests of students, faculty and staff by offering a multitude of programs and resources that facilitate physical activity, healthy eating, and emotional well-being. Stevens Point is the birthplace of the [National Wellness Institute](#) and has a strong tradition of health and wellness programming on campus. Worksite wellness for UW-Stevens Point employees is operated by a group of Health Promotion/Wellness students called [Pointers Achieve Wellness \(PAWs\)](#). PAWs is dedicated to helping improve the health and wellness of employees on campus by offering team wellness challenges, exercise testing, healthy cooking demos, and monthly newsletters that include health & wellness facts and local resources. PAWs collaborated with Health Science students and the Student Government Association in creating a campus-wide smoking ban, which was officially implemented August 2014. Health promotion services for student wellness is offered by the Student Health Promotion Office. There are 13 student health advocates that offer free health and wellness programming including: fitness & exercise coaching, sexual assault & interpersonal violence, smoking cessation, coping with stress, alcohol risk reduction, and nutrition.

Faculty, staff and students who take an independent approach to health and wellness have access to several cardio and strength training facilities. The [Allen Center](#) houses a cardio center that has over 80 pieces of cardio equipment. The Health Enhancement Center houses an additional strength/fitness center and an aquatic center. Group fitness classes are also offered year round to everyone on campus, free to all students. Intramurals and Outdoor Rentals Program provides students and employees opportunities to play organized sports and to enjoy the outdoors. Outdoor Rentals offers camping and outdoor recreation equipment to rent such as cross-country skis, backpacks, kayaks, canoes, snowshoes, stand-up boards, and lawn game sets. Intramural Sports is a student favorite on campus hosting a variety of sports that had 9,087 participants within the 2014-15 school year. The Schmeckle Reserve is a 280-acre conservancy area that has five miles of trails for walking, running, and biking. Lake Joanis is located within Schmeckle Reserve and is utilized for kayaking, scuba diving training, and fishing. The Schmeckle Reserve trails are part of 27-mile recreational trail known as the [Green Circle Trail](#) that encircles our community. Educational programming for the community is conducted by UW-Stevens Point students at Schmeckle Reserve throughout the year. Examples include candlelight hikes, habitat adventures, composting seminars, and plant identification walks.

UW-Stevens Point has dining facilities located throughout campus each offering a variety of fresh, local, and organic foods. The College of Professional Studies (CPS) building houses the [CPS Café](#), which promotes a sustainable food culture that serves roughly 340 meals per day. Several local and Wisconsin-based farms supply food to the CPS Café, of which four are located only 20 miles from campus, for example: Malek Family Stewardship Farms in Rosholt, WI and Raikowski Farm in Junction, City WI. Nearly 40% of the café's annual food budget is spent on local pasture-raised and grass-fed meats, organic vegetables, herbs, grains, fruit, oils, legumes, and dairy. Dietetic students help operate the café and learn how to control waste through meat processing, canning, and composting. The amount of pre-consumer waste the CPS Café produces daily fits into a 3 gallon-sized bucket. To minimize its environmental impact, the CPS Café uses unbleached recycled napkins, biodegradable disposable food containers and utensils, and composts



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post-consumer waste for campus run gardens. The Student Government Association's Environmental and Sustainability Issues Committee is collaborating with the CPS Café to develop a roof top garden program to supply the café with food grown on campus.

[Dining & Summer Conferences \(DSC\)](#) manages student run food operations within the Dreyfus University Center and Debot Residential Dining Center. DSC's mission is to create nutritious and sustainable meals for students, employees, and the public that cultivates community and enhances the educational experience on campus. Within the 2015-16 academic year, DSC purchased \$1,475,840 from Wisconsin based food vendors, 45 percent of DSC's annual sales. Out of the 25 food vendors DSC utilizes, 13 (52%) are located within a 250-mile radius of Stevens Point. Due to the rising cost of living and tuition, food has become difficult for students to afford. The Student Involvement & Employment Office coordinates a student-run food pantry called The Cupboard. Students who struggle financially can visit The Cupboard daily to receive donated food and toiletries. While most residential students are required to purchase a meal plan, The Cupboard still had one third of its clients from the residence halls. During the 2015-16 academic year, The Cupboard was visited a total 1,253 times by 453 students. The Cupboard collected a total of 11,876 lbs. of food and distributed 12871 lbs. of food to students. In the 2016 spring semester, 242 students visited The Cupboard 734 times, which is a 25 percent increase from the 2015 fall semester.

The University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point is designated as a fair trade university through [Fair Trade Campaigns](#). To qualify for designation, a campus must provide at least two fair trade options at every vending location on campus, host at least two educational events a semester and have offices support fair trade items. We know that fair trade supports sustainable agriculture abroad and just compensations for workers/farmers. We understand that our food purchases can make a huge impact.

In addition to our health and wellness programming for students and employees, UW-Stevens Point strives to promote campus-wide environmental health initiatives to improve how campus affects our students, employees, community and local natural resources. Our [Environmental, Health & Safety Department \(EHS\)](#) provides the following: testing for hearing safety, safety glasses, respiratory protection, safety shoes reimbursement program, and tick borne illness prevention to university employees. Faculty and staff have access to a free ergonomic workstation education and evaluation to have workspaces furnished with personally fitted ergonomic standing computer desks and ergonomic chairs. EHS monitors air quality in all (45) buildings throughout the year. Facility air quality and ventilation efficiency upgrades began on campus in 2014. Existing pneumatically controlled air systems are being replaced with direct digital controls (DDC), to optimize the heating, moisture control, ventilation, and air conditioning systems (HVAC). The DDC upgrade will also reduce energy consumption significantly. The Environmental, Health & Safety Department maintains state and federal safety requirements of hazardous waste management throughout campus. Hazardous waste pick-ups are scheduled quarterly, inventoried, and disposed of in compliance with the EPA, OSHA and the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources. A team of 12 to 15 university staff is trained annually to assist in the principles of green chemistry that is applied to hazardous waste management. In 2013, EHS underwent a federal inspection conducted by the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources and the Environmental Protection Agency. UW-Stevens Point was compliant in all aspects of the inspection and required no corrective actions.



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In addition to making the campus buildings more efficient and safe, the Grounds Work Unit has improved the management of 104 acres of turf, flowerbeds, 12 miles of sidewalk, and 28 acres of parking lots. Organic-based fertilizers are used on two-thirds of campus grounds. The Grounds department initiated a gradual reduction of pesticide application over time with pesticides being applied only once a year by restricted use chemical, state certified grounds crewmembers. A message of the day is sent to notify all students, faculty, and staff before pesticides are used. The grounds staff hires students for weeding all berms and flowerbeds to reduce pesticides and herbicide usage. Our maintenance sustainability efforts have included the use of ZERO VOC (volatile organic compounds) paints, replacing standard bulbs with LED lighting, and installing motion activated light switches, paper towel dispensers, and faucets. Dual flush toilets have also been installed to help conserve the amount of water used. In April of 2016, the maintenance team moved to a paperless work order system, by utilizing iPads and work issued smart phones. Campus custodial departments use cleaning supplies that offer quality chemical formulations, unique packaging designs, and innovative dispensing systems to assist in safely achieving environmental sanitation results while protecting human health and eliminating items from the waste stream. The Academic Custodial unit earned [GREENGUARD® certification](#) through JohnsonDiversey, a regional manufacturer that provides the university's commercial cleaning solutions. The GREENGUARD Certification Program gives assurance that products designed for use in indoor spaces meet strict chemical emissions limits. It is important to note that the certification is not awarded based solely on using green products, but also on green cleaning processes and practices as well.

UW-Stevens Point [Student Health Service \(SHS\)](#) provides clinical health services such as primary care, pharmacy, laboratory, mental health, allergy injections, dietary, and physical therapy services to students within one integrated clinic. In 2013-14, SHS served 3,740 students with a combined total of 23,727 clinic, lab, and pharmacy visits. In the 2014 Student Health Service Survey, 11 percent of students who utilized health services reported being able to stay in school one additional year because of the care received from SHS. Most SHS services are offered at no to very little cost. UW-Stevens Point Employee Assistance program contracts with "Life Matters" that assists employees who anonymously seek mental healthcare, financial consulting, legal advice, and other resources that promote healthy work and life balance. All services provided by Life Matters are free.

Engaging students in community involvement activities is important at UW-Stevens Point. Student opportunities for off-campus engagement with families and communities are organized through our [Student Involvement and Employment Office \(SIEO\)](#). SIEO coordinates annual service trips for students to work locally and nationally assisting with housing development at Camp Restore in New Orleans, preparing and serving meals to Milwaukee's homeless, and community development of roadways in Matelot, Trinidad. SIEO hosted five service trips throughout 2015-16 where 133 volunteers participated in contributing 1,754 volunteer hours. Recurring monthly events are also available for students and staff, which provide deeper connection through volunteer experience. The SIEO Volunteer Program hosted five recurring programs during the 2015-16 academic year including:

- Join the Club with the Portage County Boys and Girls Club
- Relaxing with Residents at the North Crest Assisted Living
- Fun @ Farmshed with the Central Rivers Farmshed
- Kittens and Canines at the Portage County Humane Society
- Give Hope with the Stevens Point Salvation Army Hope Center



## **Wisconsin Post-Secondary Institution Application**

Service Saturday is another program that provides students to sample a variety of volunteer experiences without having to commit to a long-term activity. Over 550 students participated during 2015-16 in Service Saturday activities that range from raking leaves for local citizens, holiday cookie, and card distribution to Oakridge Senior Living community, and making soup bowls for a local food drive and fundraiser named [Empty Bowls](#). With the help of 117 volunteers, the SIEO hosted two blood drives last year that collected 469 units of blood from 433 blood donors. The total number of volunteers that participated in SIEO volunteer and service programs within the 2015-16 academic year is 1,242, which is equivalent to 4,752 volunteer hours or \$109,628 dollars (based on the national average economic impact of volunteer work wage of \$23.07 per hour).

The above programs and initiatives demonstrate how the university reaches the pillar two goals by improving the health, wellness, and fitness of our student body and staff.



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### Pillar 3: Effective Environmental and Sustainability Education

At UW-Stevens Point, we believe that environmental and sustainability education is essential to living in today's global society. We also believe that global citizenship requires that individuals learn to see the world from perspectives other than their own. Some of these perspectives are cultural and develop from the study of other languages, ethnicities, and beliefs. Some perspectives come from honing new intellectual skills by learning math and science, for example, or cultivating an understanding of the past and an appreciation of the arts and literature. In this way, a liberal education at UW-Stevens Point prepares students to be responsible global citizens. The [General Education Program \(GEP\)](#) seeks to develop these qualities of global citizenship in four distinct ways. After completing the general education curriculum, students will:

- Demonstrate critical thinking, quantitative, and communication skills necessary to succeed in a rapidly changing global society.
- Demonstrate broad knowledge of the physical, social, and cultural worlds as well as the methods by which this knowledge is produced.
- Recognize that responsible global citizenship involves personal accountability, social equity, and environmental sustainability.
- Apply their knowledge and skills working in interdisciplinary ways to solve problems.

Every student graduating from UW-Stevens Point is expected to demonstrate these qualities as they go into the world. These four qualities align to the principals of the Green Ribbon Program in many ways. Below are a few specific examples of effective environmental and sustainability education across campus.

#### College of Natural Resources

The [College of Natural Resources](#) has alumni of over 12,500 graduates. The strength is its interdisciplinary approach and emphasis on hands-on field experiences. Few universities in the country offer the breadth of undergraduate majors and options specific in natural resources disciplines including wildlife ecology, forestry, fisheries and water resources, soils and waste management, environmental education & interpretation, land use education, and paper science and engineering. There are currently 1,655 students majoring in natural resources.

The **Environmental Education & Interpretation** option of [Human Dimensions of Natural Resource Management](#) major is one example that provides background in natural resources, community organizing, social science research, and educating the public. This major was recently awarded the North American Association for Environmental Education accreditation for higher education institutions, one of four programs in the country. There are currently 106 students enrolled in the Environmental Education & Interpretation and Wildlife Education major.

[Schmeckle Reserve](#) is a 280-acre public natural area on the campus of UW-Stevens Point, managed to protect and restore natural communities of Central Wisconsin and provide outdoor recreation opportunities. The Reserve includes over 5 miles of trails and boardwalks, a 24-acre lake, and a diversity of grassland, wetland, and forest habitats that support numerous wildlife species. The reserve serves as an outdoor classroom and provides field-based coursework for all our College of Natural Resource majors. This gives our students the place-based skills and training our students need for green jobs, giving them an edge over others for successful job placement. The Schmeckle Reserve houses a



## Wisconsin Post-Secondary Institution Application

visitor center, operated by UW-Stevens Point students, which includes an information desk, nature exhibits, a gift shop, and the Wisconsin Conservation Hall of Fame.

The [Central Wisconsin Environmental Station \(CWES\)](#) is a 200-acre teaching and learning center located 17 miles east of Stevens Point on glacial Sunset Lake. Since 1975, CWES has been an integral part of the CNR at UW-Stevens Point and is staffed with professional natural resource and environmental educators. CWES offers outdoor education programming for K-12 schools throughout the year including summer camp experiences. The Tomorrow River Community Charter School, a recognized U.S. Department of Education Green Ribbon School, is housed on the grounds and utilizes university students for some of the outdoor education classes.

[Treehaven](#) is a natural resources education, conference and research center located in the Northwoods between Rhinelander and Tomahawk, Wisconsin. It is owned and operated by UW-Stevens Point, CNR. Treehaven rests on a glacial ridge overlooking 1,400 acres of forest and wetlands and offers many programs that are open to the public throughout the year. It is home to CNR Summer Field Techniques, a six-week field course required by most CNR majors. Students majoring in natural resources gain field experience in forestry, wildlife management, soil science, and water resources. This program is a nationally recognized highlight of the CNR undergraduate degree.

[Wisconsin Institute for Sustainable Technology](#) provides real world STEM education and research opportunities for our students and faculty. Their mission is to provide research, education and services to improve Wisconsin's long-term environment and economy through collaboration of educators, students and researchers. Their research includes paper science and engineering technologies, biofuels, renewably sourced chemicals from biomass, value-added uses of agricultural residuals from processing, and compostability testing of specific papers and bioplastic materials.

The [Waste Education Center](#) located on campus and managed by the Wisconsin Institute for Sustainable Technology, contains a working wastewater treatment plant with state-of-the-industry technology, the same processes and technology used in municipal wastewater treatment plants across the United States. In addition to its use as a classroom and laboratory for students in Soil and Waste Resources, the facility is used for research trials, for example to determine treatment parameters for various additions to wastewater streams. This Center processes the campus compostable and recyclable materials.

The [Wisconsin Center for Environmental Education \(WCEE\)](#), established in 1991, has been committed to advancing environmental education literacy through pre-service teachers at UW – Stevens Point, natural resources students, and in-service professional development for teachers statewide. More than 14,300 teachers statewide have participated in WCEE-provided professional development specifically in environmental education since its inception. Program initiatives of the WCEE include the following:

- The [K-12 Energy Education Program \(KEEP\)](#), a partnership program of the WCEE and six major utility companies operating in Wisconsin, was created in 1995 to promote energy education to Wisconsin K-12 schools. The [KEEP 20 Year Report](#) details the program's major accomplishments and activities conducted since its inception. KEEP has provided graduate level courses to over 6,200 teachers increasing energy literacy of an estimated 3.9 million Wisconsin K-12 students since 1997. KEEP is committed advancing



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- STEM skills in teachers and students to help address the growing need for a skillful workforce in today's society specifically in energy industries.
- The **K-12 Forestry Education Program (LEAF)**, a partnership program of the WCEE and Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources Division of Forestry, was created in 2001 to help promote forestry education in Wisconsin. Since then, LEAF has provided professional development to thousands of Wisconsin's teachers, provided curriculum to hundreds of thousands of Wisconsin students, and registered over 28,000 acres of school forestland.
  - [Green & Healthy Schools Wisconsin](#) is administrated statewide through a partnership with the WCEE, Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources, and Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction. Green & Healthy Schools Wisconsin Support schools to create safe, healthy learning environments and prepare students to understand, analyze, and address major environmental and sustainability challenges now and in the future. There are currently 367 Wisconsin K-12 schools recognized for their work towards reducing environmental impact and costs, improving health and wellness, and increasing environmental and sustainability literacy in nine focus areas (energy, recycling & waste management, environmental health, transportation, water, school site, health & wellness, environmental & sustainability education, and community involvement). The [Helen R. Godfrey University Child Learning and Care Center](#), located on the UW-Stevens Point campus, facilitates the university's early learning program and is recognized as a "Sapling School" due to its demonstrated achievement in the five following focus areas: energy, environmental health, recycling & waste management, school site, and water. The final recognition level is when it documents achievement in all nine areas.
  - The **Environmental Education Master's Degree Program for Teachers** is the only one of its kind offered in Wisconsin. This program offers K-12 teachers the opportunity to increase knowledge and leadership skills in environmental education through online instruction during the academic year and face-to-face courses during the summer. Several graduate-level courses are affiliated with the WCEE. Credit is earned through the UW-Stevens Point. We have graduated over 250 teachers since its inception in 1995; this is in addition to the undergraduate student population and the regular on-campus master's program offered through the School of Education.

The [Center for Watershed Science and Education](#) is a partnership program between UW-Stevens Point and UW-Extension. Their work supports watershed stewardship: assists citizens with lake, river, and drinking water quality problems; promotes management strategies for water resource protection; provides water quality assessment and support; and prepares students for careers as water resource professionals.

### The School of Education

The [Doctor of Education \(Ed.D.\) in Educational Sustainability](#) program at UW-Stevens Point ensures students will develop knowledge and skills in relation to education about sustainability and education for sustainability. With this degree, educators and leaders can use the knowledge to help integrate sustainability tenets into school curriculum, community development, and business practices for a future sustainable society. This degree is applicable to administration and leadership positions in K-12 schools, communities, business, and higher education. The program is presently going through accreditation with the Higher Learning Commission (HLC). The program is anticipating a start date of fall 2017 pending HLC approval.



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The [Gesell Institute](#) 4K program teaches pre-service teachers hands-on skills of how to educate using garden-to-table principles in their experiential kitchen learning lab.

Faculty are integrating sustainability concepts at the undergraduate and graduate levels. For example, the Pluralism for Educators course is teaching undergraduate pre-service teachers social justice and systems thinking in interactive community environments such as the kitchen lab, school garden, and cultural and civic activities.

### Student Organizations

There are 213 **student organizations** on campus to engage students in building leadership skills, volunteering, and giving back to the community, and be involved as active global citizens. Some examples of student organizations committed to sustainability are:

- [350 Stevens Point](#) is a student-led local chapter of the 350 movement that raises awareness of the climate crisis and other environmental concerns by taking action in partnership with the Stevens Point Citizens' Climate Lobby and other environmental grassroots organizations.
- [American Water Resources Association \(AWRA\)](#) The UW-Stevens Point student chapter of the AWRA meets on campus weekly to carry out their mission to preserve and enhance water quality through education and program management. The Lake Joanis Turnover project and the Flume Creek Pressure Transducer Project are two examples of learning opportunities for students regarding seasonal water movements and data collection of natural phenomena. AWRA students work to raise awareness about their efforts through news announcements via Facebook, participation in Wisconsin River clean-up days, and by showing controversial water issue documentaries at the campus theater. The Groundwater Model Project is a business model the AWRA student chapter formed in the early 1980's to build rain simulated groundwater models that demonstrate how water and contaminants move through aquifers, various soil structures, and watersheds. Models are sold to schools to raise funds for the organization. UW-Stevens Point AWRA's accomplishments and leadership efforts have helped them earn the American Water Resources Association's Outstanding Student Chapter Award nine times since 1983.
- [Students for Sustainability \(SFS\)](#) of UW-Stevens Point promotes sustainable principles through education and action on the campus and throughout the community. Sustainable practices focus primarily on energy, food, transportation, and waste reduction. Efforts to educate and raise awareness about sustainability in regards to the above focuses are conducted through workshops, conferences, movie screenings, guest speakers, tours, discussions, community events, weekly meetings, and other sustainable related activities. For the past decade, passionate university students and community members have dedicated thousands of hours to the Campus Garden, which has become a resource for all to learn about composting, canning, and organic gardening. The Campus Garden is a Giving Garden, meaning the majority of the harvest is donated to local charities and food centers each year. On September 22, 2016, Students for Sustainability celebrated all that work and "growth" by hosting the 10th Anniversary Garden Party potluck.

### Office of Sustainability



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The [Office of Sustainability](#) introduces ways to reach out to the campus and community through a strategic planning process to ensure our sustainable future. The Partnership for Thriving Communities provides the framework through which the university will become more responsive to local needs and more relevant to solving regional problems by embracing the sustainability principles of “Planet, People, and Profit.” As part of the campus’ sustainability reporting, an inventory of sustainability courses, and sustainability-related courses was prepared. The list of over 300 courses that are available to students can be found on the Office of Sustainability website. The office also sends out an annual sustainability literacy assessment to measure the student body knowledge and understanding on sustainability issues and the interconnectedness of social, economic, and environmental challenges.

### STEM Education and Additional Outreach Programming

UW-Stevens Point’s commitment and leadership in STEM (science, technology, engineering and mathematics) education is demonstrated through the new science building scheduled to open late 2017 to meet the demand of our students for advanced skills and knowledge in chemistry and biology. The building will be constructed to U.S. Green Building Council Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) Gold standards. Examples that promote STEM education include:

- [STEM Exploration Day](#) is an opportunity to explore various STEM fields/careers and participate in hands-on activities. Since 2007, 5,732 seventh and eighth grade students have received a day of STEM education from UW-Stevens Point. This event is offered three times per year and targets middle school youth. Presenters at the STEM Exploration Days are faculty, staff, and students from UW-Stevens Point, as well, as professionals in STEM fields from around the state of Wisconsin. A keynote address is provided along with three 1-hour, hands-on workshops. Two of the events are held on the UW-Stevens Point main campus while the third is held at the Treehaven campus in Tomahawk, Wisconsin. This is a campus supported program involving the College of Letters and Science, the College of Natural Resources and the College of Professional Studies.
- **STEM Stravaganza** is a new program for UW-Stevens Point that was developed in collaboration with the Girl Scouts of the USA and the Girls Scouts of the Northwestern Great Lakes. It has STEM focused activities and is targeted towards 1st through 8th grade girls. This past October, 96 girls participated in three different 1-hour, hands-on workshops taught by UW-Stevens Point student volunteers. Based on positive reviews received, the program is being considered to be repeated next year.

Sustainability Month and National Campus Sustainability Day is celebrated annually at UW-Stevens Point. It is a time to recognize the successes, challenges, and innovations of sustainability in higher education. Initiatives included in the 2016 celebration were Energy Action Month, Project Green Challenge, and Disability Awareness Month. Events included The Midwest Great Apple Crunch, sustainable film showings, climate strategy forum, presentations, music, and hikes.

UW-Stevens Point holds annual energy competitions, and when offered, participates in the Campus Conservation Nationals (CCN), the largest electricity reduction competition program for colleges and universities in the world. Our goal is to engage, educate, and motivate students and staff to conserve electricity in residence halls and other campus buildings. In the fall of 2016, the university installed an energy dashboard as part of our performance-contracting



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program. The dashboard displays real-time and historical energy consumption data and will be used to promote future energy competitions.

During the 2014-15 fiscal year, 59 UW-Stevens Point faculty and staff were engaged in research, related to sustainability. University departments and centers represented include Biology; Center for Watershed Science & Education; College of Natural Resources Forestry, Human Dimensions of Natural Resource Management, Fisheries & Water Resources and Wildlife Ecology academic disciplines; Northern Aquaculture Demonstration Facility; Soil & Hazardous Waste Education Center; WI Center for Environmental Education; WI Cooperative Fishery Research; and WI Institute for Sustainable Technology.

### Academic and Career Advising Services

The [University College Academic and Career Advising Center](#) provides comprehensive career planning and job search resources to students and alumni. Services offered include career exploration, resume and professional correspondence writing, interviewing techniques, job fairs, and networking opportunities. The [College of Natural Resources \(CNR\) Academic and Career Advising Center](#) maintains a website providing links specific to jobs in natural resources and the environment. The [CNR Reporter](#) is a weekly electronic publication that includes a section on job opportunities with links to job boards and resources to help students find employment in the natural resources and sustainability fields. The Schmeckle Reserve maintains a list of [current job opportunities](#) in natural resources and environmental education & interpretation. Job postings are sent to the CNR by various employers looking for qualified applicants. In addition to university sponsored job fairs, the CNR also holds an annual career fair so that businesses can directly meet and hire students.

The preceding examples demonstrate how UW-Stevens Point provides effective environmental and sustainability education, how we incorporate the environment and sustainability to develop STEM content and civic skills, and how comprehensive career planning and job search resources help students achieve green careers.



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### **Summary Narrative:**

All efforts on campus work to bring to life the UW-Stevens Point Mission statement: *“Through the discovery and dissemination of knowledge, the University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point stimulates intellectual growth, provides a liberal education, and prepares students for a diverse and sustainable world.”* Our mission, vision and core values are advanced through our strategic plan, *“A Partnership for Thriving Communities”*. In this plan, we target four broad outcomes to help communities become vibrant, healthy, prosperous and sustainable. The focus of the strategic plan makes it very clear that sustainability is a campuswide initiative. This plan aligns very well with the three pillar goals of the U.S. Department of Education’s Green Ribbon.

### Reduced Environmental Impact and Costs

As a signatory of the American College and University Presidents' Climate Commitment, the Talloires Declaration, the White House’s American Campuses Act on Climate pledge, and as a gold-rated member of the Association for the Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Education STARS program, UW-Stevens Point has a strong commitment to developing a sustainable future and working toward carbon neutrality. Our 2011 Carbon Neutrality plan will guide us in achieving our first benchmark target in 2020 and carbon neutrality before our planned 2050 goal. Carbon emissions reductions met so far allowed us to participate as one of only 13 higher education institutions in the award winning Chevrolet Campus Clean Energy Campaign with proceeds from the sale of carbon credits used to grow our campus sustainability program.

Energy conservation initiatives achieved through an energy conservation program have helped reduce our carbon footprint while reducing our utility budget. We take responsibility for the environmental impact of our electricity use by purchasing renewable energy credits and are on the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency’s (EPA) Top 30 College & University list of largest green power users. We are the first university in the state to get 100 percent of our electricity from clean energy sources.

Many initiatives help us reduce environmental impact, while reducing cost. A campuswide composting program and a recycling center reduce landfill waste while saving dollars. Efficient water use is supported through dual flush toilets, water bottle refill fountains, a computer-controlled irrigation system, raingardens, a green roof and innovative stormwater systems on newly constructed parking lots. These initiatives help our students become more aware of what the university is doing to be more sustainable and how they can make decisions to lead a more sustainable lifestyle. The Student Greenfund uses student fees to fund sustainability-based projects on the campus and at its field stations.

Campus administration has taken a proactive leadership role in sustainability by participating and promoting sustainability programs on campus and in finding the necessary financial resources to move sustainability projects forward. UW-Stevens Point campus administration not only “talks the talk,” but also “walks the walk” to emphasize the importance and commitment of sustainability as a paramount principle to the goals and success of our university.



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### Improve the Health and Wellness of Students and Staff

Stevens Point is the birthplace to the National Wellness Institute. UW-Stevens Point supports both workplace wellness and student health and wellness through our Pointers Achieve Wellness (PAWs) program, Employee Assistance Program, a Student Health Promotion Office that employs student health advocates, a campuswide smoking ban, cardio center, Health Enhancement Center, intramurals and outdoor rentals program, and Schmeeckle Reserve. There are several healthy and sustainable eating options on campus, including the College of Professional Studies CPS Café, which promotes a sustainable food culture.

Our Facility Services team is a leader in sustainability and provides a healthy work environment. The Academic Custodial Work Unit is GREENGUARD certified to ensure healthy, high-performance cleaning that help keep staff and people in the buildings healthy. Our grounds department runs our composting and recycling programs, and manages the grounds using more organic-based fertilizers than synthetic based fertilizers. Maintenance protocols meet indoor environmental air quality requirements that cover ventilation, low-emitting materials, chemical and pollutant source control, daylight and views.

One way we promote healthy living and a sustainable lifestyle is through a daily campus announcement program. Each day we notify students of activities available to them including social events like concerts; craft making; movies and documentary showings; cultural, diversity and inclusivity discussions that are relevant in today's society; outdoor recreational trips; and organization meetings and speakers. These opportunities are a chance for students to improve their understanding of how personal health and wellness benefits them individually and as a member of our society.

### Effective Environmental and Sustainability Literacy

UW-Stevens Point has committed itself to educating its students, faculty, staff and community members towards a more comprehensive understanding of sustainability and how, as students, they can help our society move towards a more sustainable future. After completing our General Education Program, each student should recognize that responsible global citizenship involves personal accountability, social equity and environmental sustainability. UW-Stevens Point prides itself on its historical focus of developing sustainability-based knowledge within our student body and the path that those students are taking into the future.

Our four colleges within the university are all engaging in sustainability and sustainability education in a variety of ways. The Doctor of Education (Ed.D.) in Educational Sustainability program developed by the School of Education has an anticipated start date of fall 2017 pending Higher Learning Commission approval. The College of Natural Resources (CNR) offers programs in natural resource disciplines, resource management and environmental education. The CNR uses the Central Wisconsin Environmental Station (CWES), Treehaven and other managed properties as teaching field stations. For over 25 years, the Wisconsin Center for Environmental Education (WCEE) has worked to advance environmental education literacy through programs like the K-12 Energy Education Program (KEEP) and K-12 Forestry Education Program (LEAF).



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UW-Stevens Point believes in educating students on sustainability not only at the secondary education level, but younger ages as well. The Central Wisconsin Environmental Station (CWES) is home to the Tomorrow River Community Charter School, a recognized U.S. Department of Education Green Ribbon School whose programs help further environmental education with the next generation of students. The elementary school is focused on sustainability and environmental education and created a place where UW-Stevens Point students can practice their pre-service teacher and interpretation classroom training in the field.

We demonstrate our commitment and leadership in STEM (science, technology, engineering and mathematics) education through our new science building scheduled to open in 2018 to meet the demand of our students for advanced skills and knowledge in chemistry and biology. Upon completion, it will meet U.S. Green Building Council Leadership in Energy & Environmental Design (LEED) Gold standards. We also promote STEM education through events like STEM Exploration Days for middle schoolers and the STEM Stravaganza.

UW-Stevens Point partners with community organizations like Central Waters Farmshed, Friends of Schmeckle Reserve, and the Portage County Public Library to host or conduct sustainability-based events for students and the community as a whole, such as the Schmeckle Candlelight Hike, Central Wisconsin Farmer's Tribute Dinner, greenhouse workshops and a local farmers market. Students are encouraged to become more involved with the community in order to develop an understanding of how they can make more sustainable decisions in their day-to-day life on and off the campus. Students, university employees and our local community members all benefit from the knowledge, experiences and community events that go along with receiving a liberal education at UW-Stevens Point, and community engagement strengthens our strategic plan.

The University College Academic and Career Advising Center provides comprehensive career planning and job search resources to students and alumni. The CNR Academic and Career Advising Center provides similar resources more specific to "green" jobs and holds an annual career fair for students.

This narrative is a short summary of the many UW-Stevens Point achievements that demonstrate how sustainability is a thread in all operations on campus whether it relates to facilities and grounds, curriculum and instruction, or health and wellness in and around our campus.

Representing Wisconsin in the Post-Secondary Education Green Ribbon Award program would be an honor. We thank you for your time in considering our worthiness to represent this great state.