With our roots in the heart of the state, Wisconsin's right-sized public university launches students on meaningful life journeys through transformational learning in the arts and sciences. The University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point enrolls nearly 9,400 students in a variety of undergraduate and graduate programs.

UW-Stevens Point has established itself as an institution providing research opportunities to students and faculty encompassing the depth and breadth of educational areas available on the campus. Students are able to engage in faculty-led research and collaboration programs relating directly to their field of study, while providing information and technologies that benefit their community. We built on this commitment to student research this past year by hiring a Coordinator for Undergraduate Research, Scholarship and Creative Activities.

The nearly 9,400 students at UW-Stevens Point work with more than 400 faculty and staff members on research projects that will increase the successes of not only the students and faculty, but also the industries in which this research can be applied. According to the National Science Foundation, UW-Stevens Point graduates completed more research doctorates in the last 10 years than any of the other UW regional universities. More UW-Stevens Point graduates completed research doctorates in the STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics) fields in the last 10 years than all other UW schools, with the exception of UW-Madison. UW-Stevens Point excels as a doctoral preparatory institution!

Research Priorities

**Wisconsin Institute for Sustainable Technology (WIST)**

At UW-Stevens Point, the Wisconsin Institute for Sustainable Technology (WIST) develops innovative technologies and processes to promote economic growth through sustainable use of natural resources. WIST works in partnership with private industry, nonprofit institutions, and other universities.

WIST energy research currently includes development of a Cellulose Pilot and Processing Laboratory in collaboration with industry partner American Science and Technology. The CPPL, scheduled to be fully operational by mid-2015, will feature a pilot-scale biorefinery capable of processing up to two tons of biomass per day, as well as a fermentation laboratory and related facilities. Cellulose is the most abundant organic material on Earth.
Besides its potential use in biofuels, cellulose can provide the feedstock for a host of biomaterials that may be used to produce rubber, plastics or pharmaceuticals that are currently derived from petroleum. WIST researchers are developing the processes to derive these valuable materials. Unlike so-called first generation biofuels such as ethanol from corn, cellulosic biofuels and biomaterials can be produced without impacting food supplies. The biomass sources could be waste streams from pulp and paper mills, forest materials, or residual materials from agricultural processing operations.

Additional WIST research and laboratory services focus on development of specialty papers, which may be used in packaging or in a variety of industry applications. UW-Stevens Point is home to a Fourdrinier pilot paper machine, a smaller version of the giant machines in commercial paper mills, which the institute uses for research and development as well as small production runs. A new pilot coating and laminating line installed in July 2014 adds capability for development of coated and laminated paper, such as that used in food and beverage packaging. More than one-third of food is thrown away rather than consumed – $162 billion of food wasted in the U.S. each year. Packaging innovations could greatly reduce food waste by preserving food quality and extending shelf life. Add in WIST’s compostability testing laboratory, which determines whether materials are compostable under industrial composting conditions, along with its capabilities in repulpability and recyclability testing, and the institute is uniquely positioned to work with industry to develop new, sustainable materials.

**Aquaculture and Aquaponics**

The Northern Aquaculture Demonstration Facility (NADF) provides applied research, demonstration, education, and outreach to foster the development and growth of a sustainable aquaculture industry in Wisconsin and other northern U.S. states. Wisconsin’s highly diversified aquaculture industry has more than 2,300 registered commercial fish farms, 14 state hatcheries, two federal hatcheries and all the resources needed to accommodate significant expansion. The NADF conducts innovative research, provides workforce training, and performs technology-transfer for the aqua-business sectors; it is a facility where technology meets production. The NADF works in partnership with private industry, nonprofits, tribes, federal and state agencies, and other universities. Its aquaculture and aquaponics research has been supported by nearly $4 million in federal, state and private funding.

With a major UW System Economic Incentive Grant, the UW-Stevens Point College of Letters and Science has constructed the nation’s first Aquaponics Innovation Center (AIC) through a partnership with a leading private aquaponics business. The UW-Stevens Point is the only higher education institution in Wisconsin with an aquaculture minor and professional aquaponics certificate program. UW-Stevens Point continues to be the only accredited university in the nation to offer semester-long college aquaponics courses that have educated >120 students nationwide in 3 years. The combined resources of the NADF
and AIC provide world-class facilities to advance sustainable, economical, and ecologically responsible agriculture to grow fish for tomorrow’s markets. *For more information, visit: [http://aquaculture.uwsp.edu](http://aquaculture.uwsp.edu)*

Collaboration and Innovation

**Small Business Development Center**

One of 12 in Wisconsin, the UW-Stevens Point Small Business Development Center (SBDC) offers no cost, confidential advising and resources as well as fee based workshops/conferences and trade area mapping to both startup and existing businesses throughout nine counties—Adams, Langlade, Lincoln, Marathon, Oneida, Portage, Vilas, Waupaca and Wood.

- Highlights of the economic impacts in Federal Fiscal Year 2014 include:
  - Provided no cost, confidential face-to-face advising to 180 clients (2,666 hours) throughout nine Central Wisconsin counties on topics related to starting or operating a business.
  - Assisted an additional 414 individuals over-the-phone or via email.
  - Updated impact map of Entrepreneurial Training Program participants over a 14 year period to 336 business startups or existing/expansions out of 616.
  - Collaborated with the UW-Stevens Point Computing and New Media Technologies Department on matching up student teams with 7 area small businesses. Web development projects were successfully completed.
  - Partnered with the UW-Stevens Point Geography Department to secure a Geographic Information System intern. With SBDC oversight, the intern created 7 comprehensive mapping projects, which included mapping elder population maps over two counties for an individual that wants to start an at-home occupational health services business.

**Center for the Small City**

Established by UW-Stevens Point and the UW System in 1979, the Center for the Small City, a division within the College of Letters and Science, focuses on small cities, towns and rural areas within micropolitan areas (settlements with fewer than 50,000 people.) The center’s purpose is to organize conferences and workshops on relevant topics for the university community, local government officials, community leaders and the general public. The center also researches topics pertaining to small cities, provides consultation services to local governments and community organizations, collects and disseminates information related to micropolitan areas, and administers the academic minor in Small Cities Analysis.

**Central Wisconsin Economic Research Bureau**

The CWERB is Wisconsin’s premier research center focused on regional economic development. Its mission is to foster economic development through analysis of the focus areas of Marathon, Portage and Wood counties. This has been accomplished through the publication of Economic Indicator Reports, which are released for each county in Central
Wisconsin. These reports present a basic understanding of the state of the economy at the National, Central Wisconsin and local level.

**Geographic Information Systems (GIS) Center**
The GIS Center at UW-Stevens Point conducts and disseminates Geographic Information Systems education and research to foster a highly skilled, multidisciplinary GIS workforce and to confront spatial challenges important to Wisconsin’s citizens. The center has potential to be the biggest and best spatial information center in the state collaborating with municipalities, industry and other educational institutions in the exploding spatial management technology arena.

**The Healthy Communities Initiative**
By 2020-2030, the health care professional workforce will experience dramatic shortages in nursing, personal care physicians, surgeons, psychiatrists and occupational/physical therapists. The university partnerships with the Medical College of Wisconsin, the Marshfield Clinic and the Rural Dental Initiative will help make UW-Stevens Point the premier institution for professional and practical health care education. Specific attention will be given to rural, Native American, Hmong and other underserved populations of the state.

**New Science Building**
In 2013, the Wisconsin Building Commission approved a $75 million budget request for a new science building at UW-Stevens Point. The building will be four floors and approximately 170,000 square feet. It will contain up-to-date educational and research facilities in health care training, human biology, chemistry and botany. Construction is projected to start in 2015, with completion in 2017.

**U.S. Department of Education Awards Title III Grant to UW-Stevens Point**
UW-Stevens Point has been awarded a $1.8 million federal grant to enhance academic services to help more students succeed. The Title III grant from the U.S. Department of Education will fund the program **Strengthening Academic Success: More Graduates for Wisconsin.** It will improve student success through coordinated, high-impact academic support services. Five new positions will be funded, aimed at helping at-risk students stay in school and complete degrees. The Title III grant will include enhanced tutoring, intensive academic advising and targeted career counseling.