

**Profile of
Gene Clark, Professional Engineer
Coastal Engineering Specialist, Sea Grant Institute, UW-Madison
2015 Regents Academic Staff Excellence Award Recipient**

Highlights from nomination materials:

- Began his service at UW-Madison as a graduate research assistant in 1984; has worked with the UW Sea Grant Institute as a coastal engineer for the past 10 years; currently based at UW-Superior.
- Often called upon to explain coastal science and how it affects environmental trends; specialized expertise in Great Lakes commercial and recreational ports and harbor engineering.
- Recently conducted a series of public forums for local policymakers, business owners, and commercial and recreational fishermen on the topic of record-low levels of the Great Lakes.
- Skillful personal interactions frequently cited in thank-you letters from grateful community members whom he has helped with coastline concerns.
- Has partnered with the Milwaukee County Parks Department to provide real-time beach conditions, including warnings about rip currents in Lake Michigan.
- Secured \$1.1 million in additional funds for projects such as improving beach safety along Lake Michigan and Lake Superior, finding productive uses for harbor-dredged material (saving an estimated \$125 million in landfill storage costs), and meeting the challenges of failing port, harbor, and marina infrastructure.
- Received national attention in 2014, earning the Research to Application Award from the national Sea Grant Association for a long-term project – mitigating steel infrastructure disintegration at the Port of Duluth-Superior due to microbial action combined with winter ice scour.
- One of 13 experts from around the country to advise the National Sea Grant College Program in the area of resilient communities and economies.

In Gene Clark's own words:

- “When I started, I was very much aware of the long and proud legacy established by my predecessor, Phil Keillor. For 30 years, he earned a national reputation for the technical assistance, guidance, and educational services he provided to coastal communities along Wisconsin's shores, throughout the Great Lakes and beyond. After retiring, he mentored me on how best to continue this effort but stressed that I look for new directions to take the coastal engineering extension effort by capitalizing on my unique skills.”

In the words of colleagues:

- “Gene touches the state, region, and nation and affects real change. He is the embodiment of the Wisconsin Idea—taking research findings and broadly sharing them.”
—*James P. Hurley, Director, University of Wisconsin Sea Grant Institute*
- “His contributions have benefitted both economic growth, and health and human safety for Wisconsin's coastal communities. In addition, Gene's recent work in beneficial use of dredged materials adds to a body of science that will have even further farther-reaching value at the regional and national levels.”
—*David L. Knight, Project Manager, Great Lakes Commission (2003-2012); Great Lakes Ports and Navigation Specialist*