

University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point Civic Action Plan

June 2018

The University of Wisconsin- Stevens Point values civic engagement and community partnerships as an integral part of our educational approach. We are proud of our legacy of community engagement under the Wisconsin Idea, including our roots in teacher education and our current partnerships with local and statewide organizations.

The UW-Stevens Point administration, faculty and staff proudly embrace the five Commitments found in [Campus Compact](#) 30th Anniversary Action Statement. We will:

1. **Empower** our students, faculty, staff, and community partners to co-create mutually respectful partnerships in pursuit of a just, equitable, and sustainable future for communities beyond the campus—nearby and around the world.
2. **Prepare** our students for lives of engaged citizenship, with the motivation and capacity to deliberate, act, and lead in pursuit of the public good.
3. **Embrace** our responsibilities as place based institutions, contributing to the health and strength of our communities—economically, socially, environmentally, educationally, and politically.
4. **Harness** the capacity of our institutions—through research, teaching, partnerships, and institutional practice—to challenge the prevailing social and economic inequalities that threaten our democratic future.
5. **Foster** an environment that consistently affirms the centrality of the public purposes of higher education by setting high expectations for members of the campus community to contribute to their achievement. (Insert citation)

A Partnership for Thriving Communities

In UW-Stevens Point's strategic plan document, [A Partnership for Thriving Communities](#), we emphasize our commitment to civic action and community engagement in our area, state, nation and world. According to that document, "Our engagement includes our inquiry, research, development, application and dissemination of new knowledge. It includes our formal partnerships and our informal relationships, from the residents in our neighborhood to our colleagues in global professions and disciplines." Our vision and mission statements reflect our commitment:

Vision: The University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point will continue to be recognized for developing, supporting and educating students and citizens to constructively engage in local, regional and global communities.

Mission: Through the discovery, dissemination and application of knowledge, the University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point fosters intellectual growth, provides a broad-based education, models community engagement and prepares students.

Civic action and community engagement are core values at UW-Stevens Point. Currently UW-Stevens Point offers a variety of community engagement opportunities. This commitment to community engagement is evident in the variety of opportunities for engagement embedded in our curriculum. Students to engage in experiential learning and benefit from those opportunities by reflecting on experiences beyond their typical classroom activities and by applying the knowledge and skills they gain from traditional courses in new settings. The experiential learning that takes places at UW-Stevens Point includes internships, service learning, community organizing and public performances.

Another example of Pointer civic engagement is our [Campus Activities and Student Engagement Office](#) (CASE) and deep commitment to student governance. CASE offers students numerous volunteer opportunities, service trips, and events to prepare them to be active and engaged citizens. UW-Stevens Point also has a long tradition of engaged and powerful student governance, providing a training ground for the kind of engaged work needed in communities, organizations, and businesses.

UW-Stevens Point works with our neighbors throughout central and northern Wisconsin to ensure that our communities stay vibrant, healthy, prosperous and sustainable. We proudly collaborate with a large array of local businesses and non-profit agencies, ranging from Sentry Insurance to the Boys and Girls Club. These partnerships benefits our students and the larger community.

GOAL 1 Prepare students to become active citizens committed to engagement with campus, local and global communities.

Activities

- Item 1: Work with Associate Dean of General Education and Honors and the General Education committee as well as the Deans of UWSP's five colleges to identify courses that assist student in this direction.
- Item 2: Continue to support practicums, internships and other applied activities through courses.
- Item 3: Explore designation of classes as engagement recognition on student transcripts and or as elements of an engagement certificate.
- Item 4: Work with CASE to expand incentives for meaningful student community engagement to advertise to student community service opportunities

- Item 5: Assist students with overcoming barriers to student community engagement, such as transportation

GOAL 2 Foster a diverse and inclusive culture on campus and in the surrounding community.

Activities

- Train all faculty and staff on creating an inclusive student experience through a workshop series offered by CITL
- Offer similar trainings to external partners at no cost for those who are engaged with UW-Stevens Point faculty and instructors on community engagement projects
- Partner with community groups to offer programming and other opportunities for exploring diversity.

GOAL 3 Develop faculty, staff and administrators on implementing high impact practices in community engagement.

Activities

- Item 1: Work with CITL to offer engagement curricular development for faculty in the existing faculty development programs.
- Item 2: Work with Wisconsin Campus Compact to continue to educate faculty, staff and administrators on high impact practices in community engagement.
- Item 3: Commit to utilize the resources offered through membership in Campus Compact by sending UW-Stevens Point representatives to various regional and national events.

GOAL 4 Identify an entity to make more visible the engaged activities on campus and to act as a “front door” for community partners and organizations to more easily connect with collaborators, resources, and programs on campus.

Activities

- Item 1: Create and sustain a community focus and a formal infrastructure.
- Item 2: Work with the college units to identify and report on engaged activities by faculty, students staff community partners. Encourage departments and units to recognize engaged scholarship in retention and tenure decisions.
- Item 3: Create an Engagement Council /Planning Committee representing faculty, from variety of disciplines and colleges.

