University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire
Watershed Institute for Collaborative Environmental Studies
Affiliate Program
(Approved by the WICES Steering Committee 03/11/2011)

The mission of the Watershed Institute for Collaborative Environmental Studies (WICES) is to unite the efforts and expertise of faculty, staff and students across disciplines, enhancing the strong liberal arts experience offered at UW-Eau Claire by fostering interdisciplinary education, scholarship and community outreach. Its core goal is for UW-Eau Claire students to develop an increased environmental awareness, a vital ecological literacy, a commitment to conservation and sustainability, and an appreciation of the need for a respectful and ethically intentional relationship between human society and the natural world. We develop these values by engaging students regionally in the Lower Chippewa River Watershed and then enabling them to apply them outward to the rest of the world.

To advance this mission, it is desirable to establish a network of faculty and staff Affiliates of the Watershed Institute. Application to the Affiliate Program in the UW-Eau Claire Watershed Institute is open to all interested faculty and staff. Applications for affiliation will be reviewed by the WICES Program Coordinator in consultation with the WICES Steering Committee. For approved applications, the Program Coordinator will send a memorandum to the Provost requesting that “WICES Affiliate” be added to the working title of each Affiliate.

Purpose:

- Build a mutually supportive, interdisciplinary community composed of faculty and staff engaged in interdisciplinary teaching and curricular development, collaborative scholarship, service learning opportunities, university service and/or community outreach directed at illuminating and comprehending the natural world and humanity’s relationship to it and effects upon it.

- Identify such individuals and gather together information about their specific areas of expertise to be used to refer current and prospective students, colleagues and community members to appropriate campus resources.

- Inform members about opportunities, events and projects specifically related to their interests, and assess the university’s strengths and needs in environmental studies across the curriculum.

- Provide official acknowledgement of the interdisciplinary contributions that faculty and staff make to the Institute through teaching, scholarship and service as intrinsically valuable to the university.
Involvement:

1. Be actively involved in nurturing and shaping the structure and direction of the Watershed Institute and its lived and evolving mission, contribute to committee work.
2. Vote for leaders in the WICES organizational structure (e.g., coordinator and steering committee); be nominated for and serve in leadership roles within WICES.
3. Engage with colleagues with diverse academic interests to mentor and/or be mentored by experienced faculty and staff.
4. Develop and teach interdisciplinary environmental courses and curricula in collaboration with Affiliates and other Institute members.
5. Pursue collaborative, interdisciplinary research on environmental topics and issues and present this research on- and off-campus.
6. Find and develop opportunities for service to the university and community, including serving campus and community through relevant service-learning opportunities.
7. Encourage regional and global collaborations beyond the UW-Eau Claire campus, empowering citizens to be informed and aware stewards of the environment.
8. Meet periodically to review the work of the Watershed Institute and to evaluate its accomplishments by the yardstick of the WICES mission and goals.

Criteria:

Application of expertise in the natural environment and humanity’s interactions with it, to teaching, scholarship, service and/or community interactions at UW-Eau Claire. Commitment to active participation in the work of the Watershed Institute, including those activities listed above.

Application:

Submit the following materials electronically to the Coordinator of the Watershed Institute (boulteje@uwec.edu): 1) a resume or curriculum vitae and/or 2) a statement that explains why you are seeking affiliate status, citing specific examples of how your interest in and experiences with interdisciplinary environmental studies align with the program mission and goals. Examples may vary widely but may include:

- prior experience or interest in teaching a course (potentially in cooperation with other WICES faculty and staff) that promotes ecological consciousness, encourages interdisciplinary teaching, and fosters engaged, connected learning,
- engagement in collaborative, mindful, and environmentally focused research and scholarship, both basic and applied, among students, faculty and others at the local, national and international level; working across disciplines to achieve these goals,
- participation in environmental organizations, on- or off-campus, to create and inform a community of ecologically aware, globally minded, ethically intentional citizens seeking sustainable, respectful, and appreciative relationships with the natural world.