

Projects That Help Recruit High School Students

One of the primary goals of the Freshwater Collaborative of Wisconsin is to recruit high school students into water programs throughout UW System. If you would like to participate in a Recruitment working group, please email us at freshwater-collab@uwm.edu.

Educators and Students Rise to Freshwater Challenges

Institutions: UW-Green Bay

Principal Investigator: Emily Tyner

This project is enhancing community-based experiential learning opportunities for pre-college students and teachers around the Green Bay and Lake Michigan watersheds. The effort will build a community of freshwater-focused educators and middle and high school students, link to statewide water experts, and engage a diversity of urban to rural communities within the UW-Green Bay geography. Intended outcomes include promoting water career knowledge and aspirations among students, recruiting students to UW-Green Bay and UW System water-centric programs, building skills in students at all levels, and expanding equity, inclusion, and diversity efforts.

Environmental Science Fair at UWEC: Water, Water, Everywhere!

Institutions: UW-Eau Claire

Principal Investigator: Sarah Vitale

This new project is a one-day multi-disciplinary Environmental Science Fair at the UW-Eau Claire campus for up to 100 regional high school students and accompanying high school teachers/advisers. The fair will include hands-on breakout sessions, a panel, a plenary speaker, and a traditional program fair for participants to interact with environmental science faculty at UW-Eau Claire. Freshwater Collaborative programming will be advertised to participants.

Freshwater Science across the Curriculum: Linked Outreach and Advanced Educational Activities in Western Wisconsin

Institutions: UW-Eau Claire, UW Oshkosh, UW-River Falls, UW-Stout

Principal Investigator: Sarah Vitale, UW-Eau Claire

Collaborators: Greg Kleinheinz, UW Oshkosh; Jill Coleman-Wasik, UW-River Falls; Keith Gilland, UW-Stout

This ongoing project includes two freshwater science field courses in western Wisconsin: one targeting junior and senior high school students and the other an advanced course designed for upper-level college students. These field-intensive, hands-on learning experiences introduce participants to a wide range of freshwater science topics with specialists from UW-Eau Claire, UW-Stout, UW-River Falls, and UW Oshkosh. Courses are open to students enrolled in high schools across Wisconsin or from any UW System campus respectively.

My River Adventures (MRA) Pre-College Camp

Institutions: UW-La Crosse

Principal Investigator: Vickie Sanchez

The UW-La Crosse MRA camp is a six-day residential camp for incoming 7-12 grade students. Students use the UW-La Crosse campus as their homebase while they enjoy a week of instructional sessions and visits to rivers in the Driftless region for hands-on fieldwork and lab activities in collaboration with UW-La Crosse faculty, local educators, and community members. Students create connections with community leaders and educators who can introduce them to career paths and increase their interest in STEM post-high school.

Training K12 Educators in Groundwater Science

Institutions: UW-Eau Claire

Principal Investigator: Sarah Vitale

This project entails a one-day groundwater workshop with K-12 educators in the Eau Claire Area School District and a hands-on classroom experience for each participating educator with UW-Eau Claire faculty and undergraduate students. The workshop will include exploration of groundwater characteristics using physical flow models, field experience on the UW-Eau Claire campus well field, and a tour of the Eau Claire Municipal Water Treatment Plant. Participants will receive a groundwater model to keep and use in their classroom. The follow-up classroom experience will provide an opportunity for educators to see groundwater models used with their students and build connections to support other Freshwater Collaborative programming.

UW-Green Bay Pre-College Student Experiences in Freshwater, 2023-2025

Institutions: UW-Green Bay

Principal Investigator: Emily Tyner

UW-Green Bay Pre-College Student Experiences in Freshwater is the continuation and expansion of a project that is enhancing community-based experiential learning opportunities for pre-college students and teachers around the Green Bay and Lake Michigan watersheds. The project will build a community of freshwater-focused educators and middle and high school students, link to statewide water experts, and engage a diversity of urban to rural communities within the UW-Green Bay region. Intended outcomes include building skills and career-oriented experiences for high school scholars interested in the water sector, recruiting students to UW-Green Bay and UW System water-centric programs, and expanding efforts toward equity, inclusion, and diversity of participants.