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KEEP recognized for helping millions learn how to save energy

The Wisconsin K-12 Energy Education Program (KEEP) at the University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point has been bringing educators and energy professionals together to promote energy literacy in Wisconsin and beyond for two decades.

This work recently earned the program the Midwest Energy Efficiency Alliance's (MEEA) 2014 Inspiring Efficiency Education Award. Bestowed annually at the Midwest Energy Solutions Conference

(www.meeaconference.org), the award is presented for development and implementation of a local campaign, program, strategy or idea to increase knowledge and action on energy efficiency.



“KEEP is a model program for other states across the nation looking for ways to create successful energy education partnerships, increase energy literacy and contribute to true energy savings,” said MEEA Executive Director Doug Newman.

Based out of the Wisconsin Center for Environmental Education at UW-Stevens Point, KEEP provides graduate-level energy education coursework to teachers, taught by university instructors. Participants earn a certificate as well as ways to integrate hands-on energy lessons and projects into their classrooms.

Since its inception in 1995, KEEP has provided formal professional development to nearly 6,000 Wisconsin teachers and has reached more than 3 million K-12 students. The program's success has spread far beyond Wisconsin's borders, inspiring similar programs in other states and even other nations, including Japan and Taiwan.

“KEEP's vision is to create an energy-literate citizenry in Wisconsin that is actively engaged in energy conservation, efficiency and renewable energy initiatives,” said Susan Schuller, Wisconsin Center for Environmental Education program coordinator. “The students reached through the program are our future homeowners, decision makers and energy leaders.”

In addition to educating teachers, KEEP also provides support for student activities, such as career experiences and contests, and guidelines to help students develop and implement energy use policies



and conservation activities at their own schools. The program encourages students to curb energy consumption at home and in their communities through the use of energy conservation kits with items like CFLs, LEDs and smart power strips. In total, these efforts have yielded more than 6,869 megawatt hours in energy savings.