

■■■ What is the GEM Education Center?

The Global Environmental Management Education Center (GEM) is a center for world class curricula, applied research, and outreach education services in natural resources and environmental management. GEM's purpose is *pioneering and applying practical learning methods and technology to solve natural resource problems by linking faculty, students and citizens worldwide.*

- An international education center for natural resources and environmental management for building a **secure** and **sustainable** future
- A partnership consisting of university, government and private stakeholders to provide learning experiences on the **global** stage that inspire creative solutions to **local** resource issues in communities in the USA and abroad
- An educational leader in moving sustainability **policy** to **practice**

GEM engages **students** and **stakeholders** in **practical** and **applied** “hands on” service learning opportunities that are **integrated** and **international** to empower local communities to solve real world problems in building a sustainable future.

Established in 2000, GEM is located at the [University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point](#) and is affiliated with UWSP's [College of Natural Resources](#), the largest and premier undergraduate institution of natural resources and environmental management in North America. GEM extends the reach of the UWSP College of Natural Resources, the home of the first conservation education major (1946) in the USA.

■■■ Why GEM? Why Now?

Addressing threats to global health and security...one field, one farm, one stream at a time

People in local communities everywhere share the same needs for clean water, adequate food and shelter, and jobs to support their families and livelihoods. Maintaining a healthy natural resource base is the most cost-effective and durable means to meet these needs. However, for many, the challenge of sustaining basic needs is a daunting task, which increasingly results in serious threats to human health and security worldwide.

GEM is responding “on the ground” in local communities around the world **where it counts** to improve global security by helping people build healthy environments and sustainable societies in their neighborhoods.

- Train effective **natural resource leaders** who positively and creatively solve real world problems
- Provide international outreach education guided by systems-based science, **democratic principles** and **free market values**
- Build a sustainable future through international, knowledge-based technical assistance, environmental education, and transforming natural resource **policy** (e.g. U.N. Millennium Development Goals) into **practical results**
- Break down the linguistic, economic, geographic and cultural barriers toward a more **enriched international learning** environment for students
- Prepare students for career opportunities which contribute to the “**triple bottom line**” of economic vitality, ecological integrity, and social equity at local, state, national and global levels
- Expand the menu of service learning products and services offered to **stakeholders**—businesses, private citizens and local communities—through outreach and extension programs



GEM Programs

What We Do...Building Hope for the Future via Sustainability, International Programming, and Leadership Development in:

- ✓ Watershed Management
- ✓ Comprehensive Land Use Planning
- ✓ Rural Leadership and Community Development
- ✓ Sustainable Agriculture, Forestry, and Agroforestry
- ✓ Sustainable Communities and Campuses
- ✓ Sustainable Energy Systems
- ✓ Conservation and Environmental Education
- ✓ Permaculture Design Certification
- + plus, GEM projects on HIV/AIDS, teacher training, biodiversity, and more



GEM Ethic...Building Hope for the Future

The GEM vision is rooted in Wisconsin's renowned **conservation heritage**, which was built by pioneering leaders including John Muir, Aldo Leopold, Gaylord Nelson, and others.

Building on these strengths of heritage, ethic and existing resources, GEM is working around the world for **healthy land** and **healthy water** to make **healthy people** who can live full, productive lives building a **secure** and **sustainable** future.

Selected sampling of GEM projects...GEM Ethic in Action

■ **GEM Student Ambassador Program**, funded by the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service, provides active learning enrichment opportunities for students in practical, "hands-on" field-based and community-based applied research projects and internships related to the GEM mission. Working to make a world of difference by connecting with and empowering local citizens worldwide, most GEM Student Ambassadorships take place overseas in collaboration with GEM host partners. Want to learn more? Please visit the GEM Student Ambassador Program web site:

<http://www.uwsp.edu/cnr/gem/ambassador/index.htm>

■ **GEM Sustainability Leadership in Action**—GEM promotes community-based efforts to conserve and restore ecosystems, to create income-generation and jobs, to respect and safeguard indigenous knowledge and cultural diversity, and empower local citizens. Sustainability, which has emerged from strong roots in conservation education, is at the core of the CNR and GEM educational enterprise, legacy and delivery of practical knowledge-based products and services. For example,

- GEM provides strong leadership and investment in UWSP campus **sustainability demonstration projects and operations**, moving the sustainability education agenda forward.
- GEM connects the dots—integrating environmental, social, and economic components and **empowering students and citizens** to see the big picture (globally) and to act in building a healthy environment and healthy communities (locally) in a variety of projects and activities.
- GEM participates actively in U.N. Decade of Education for Sustainable Development, U.N. World Summit on Sustainable Development, and other international efforts addressing **U.N. Millennium Development Goals**.
- GEM hosted the **4th International Conference on Environmental Management for Sustainable Universities** in Stevens Point in June 2006

■ **GEM's HIV/AIDS Small Garden Systems Project in Kenya**—a collaboration of UWSP/GEM and Marquette U. College of Nursing, the GEM Small Garden Systems team augmented nutrition and food security of impoverished families impacted by HIV/AIDS in Kenya. The USAID-funded project, *Dietetics and Small Garden Systems to Support Antiretroviral Treatment for Families Impacted by HIV/AIDS in Kenya*, trained health care providers, HIV/AIDS patients and their families in organic farming, agroforestry, micro-enterprise development, and food distribution linkages. The result is enhanced response to antiretroviral therapy via improved nutrition and poverty reduction from kitchen gardens and other affordable, convenient, and small-scale self help food production systems for Kenya's slum dwellers.

For more information about GEM programs, please visit the GEM web site at <http://gem.uwsp.edu> or contact:



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ALDO LEOPOLD



JOHN MUIR



GAYLORD NELSON



GEM staff explore potential for small garden systems for Kenya's HIV/AIDS families.