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Aquaculture

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PROSPECTS IN AQUACULTURE

Special Feature On Training And Education

Advancing aquaculture workforce development

Aquaculture is currently the fastest growing food production system in the world. Although the global aquaculture industry is increasing in size and production, the industry is lacking in educated and experienced individuals to support that growth. Availability of a skilled aquaculture workforce is becoming a major impediment for industry advancement.

The University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point has a robust workforce development program that utilizes two state-of-the-art research facilities for aquaculture and aquaponics to train and advance the industry. These facilities include the UWSP Northern Aquaculture Demonstration Facility and the UWSP Aquaponics Innovation Center. These aqua-business education courses and research facilities incorporate key concepts for educating future workforce, including hands-on experience and applied learning. Through industry-applied research projects, students work alongside expert staff to raise a variety of species at all life stages in various systems. This distinctive opportunity is achieved through internships and technician positions to create a skillset that is very much in demand in the industry. It is no wonder that UW-Stevens Point has a very high job placement rating of over 90 percent.

The success of this program is currently highlighted through UW-Stevens Point graduate, Brandon Gottsacker, who is now the COO of Superior Fresh, the



UW-Stevens Point technicians and interns working with Atlantic salmon broodstock alongside private industry partner, Riverence, LLC at UWSP Northern Aquaculture Demonstration Facility. Internships and technician positions at aquaculture companies help create a skillset that is very much in demand in the industry

first commercial-scale indoor Atlantic salmon RAS facility in the US. "UW-Stevens Point guided me towards the exciting new industry by providing me unique opportunities to learn about aquaculture," says Gottsacker. He and his team have directly partnered with the UW-Stevens Point Northern Aquaculture Demonstration Facility for technical assistance, demonstration and coldwater species expertise to advance their facility and operations.

"I can be confident in hiring the students that attended UWSP by understanding the rigorous curriculum in biology, fisheries and aquaculture. The UWSP Northern Aquaculture Demonstration Facility has provided opportunities most students wouldn't get otherwise."

For more information on UW-Stevens Point Aquaculture or Aquaponics education visit aquaculture.uwsp.edu.

Aquaculture technician training project bags funding

The British Columbia government and North Island College (NIC) on Victoria Island, BC, have partnered on a new \$450,000 (C\$600,000) project that will boost aquaculture in the province by providing training to future aquaculture technicians.

The three-year project will train up to 40 students at NIC's campus in Campbell River, BC. The project includes the development of advanced levels of aquaculture technician training; different training delivery models; prior learning and skills assessment/recognition model; and a marketing strategy to promote aquaculture careers to First Nations, high school students and local job seekers.

In addition to in-person instruction, NIC is also working to create materials to deliver the training online to students. Materials that will assess the knowledge of individuals already working in the aquaculture industry are also being developed to help support their career development.

The project started in February this year and is expected to finish in spring 2020.



BC is funding a training program that will boost aquaculture in the province and help residents become aquaculture technicians



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