Initiatives to increase and retain students of diversity at the University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point College of Natural Resources

Primary authors: KUBISH, Bobbi (College of Natural Resources, UW-Stevens Point)

Content:
This session will discuss initiatives the College of Natural Resources (CNR) at the University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point (UWSP) is taking to increase the number of students from ethnically diverse backgrounds. The CNR has roughly 1700 declared majors but consistently less than 43 are students of color (283 are female). The university has approximately 9,500 students overall and current initiatives to attract students of diversity has resulted in an increase of the percentage of new freshman of diverse ethnic backgrounds from 3.63 in 2000 to 113 in 2012. The CNR has piggy-backed on some of these efforts and is slowly seeing results.

Initiatives that will be discussed more in-depth include the UW-Stevens Point Multicultural Leadership Conference, CNR diversity "camps" that model this effort and partnerships with youth groups such as the Center for Conservation Leadership and Milwaukee Conservation Leadership Corps. In addition, efforts to support and retain our current students of diversity will be addressed. Actions such as the formation of a chapter of Minorities in Agriculture, Natural Resources and Related Sciences, that primarily focuses on campus education about diverse scientists, a new student diversity outreach coordinator position in the college, who focuses on outreach to freshman and sophomore students of diversity, and campus efforts like Equity Scorecard and Inclusive Excellence, have spurred initial conversations about inclusive curriculum and the college and campus environment.