



GROWTH AGENDA FOR WISCONSIN

Access • Affordability • Growth

UW-Eau Claire/Stout: Chippewa Valley NanoSTEM Initiative

Funding will be used in the 2007-09 biennium to develop the *Chippewa Valley NanoSTEM Initiative*, a collaboration between UW-Eau Claire, UW-Stout, and the Chippewa Valley Technical College (CVTC) to provide the education and training needed for the Chippewa Valley region to embrace important emerging technologies in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM).

What is the Chippewa Valley NanoSTEM Initiative?

UW-Eau Claire, UW-Stout, and the Chippewa Valley Technical College will capitalize on existing expertise and partnering in the development and enhancement of degree programs that focus on the triad of nanotechnology, nanoengineering and nanoscience education.

The proposed initiative offers a unique combination of strengths with the specific goals of:

- 1) Educating more students in advanced STEM disciplines, including nanotechnology, biotechnology, polymer engineering and computer and electrical engineering;
- 2) Providing access to state-of-the-art science and engineering facilities and expertise for both students and regional businesses and industry as more public-private partnerships are promoted and sustained in the Chippewa Valley region to provide a positive economic impact for knowledge and technology-based industries;
- 3) Building a three-pronged workforce skill set of science, engineering, and technology through which to attract and retain the high-end employers of tomorrow.

What are the benefits of the Chippewa Valley NanoSTEM Initiative?

To address the low numbers of students pursuing baccalaureate degrees in various STEM disciplines, UW-Eau Claire and UW-Stout will expand their undergraduate recruiting efforts in nearby population centers that contain significant numbers of underrepresented students. UW-Stout is also working with Bradley Tech High School to develop a Summer Technology and Engineering Preview at Stout (STEPS) program for girls aimed at getting more women and minorities into engineering programs.

What would the Chippewa Valley NanoSTEM Initiative mean for Wisconsin?

These multidisciplinary, integrated programs will provide a well-educated work force uniquely skilled in the integration of innovative nanoscale science and technology applications into a wide range of industries in the upper Midwest, particularly those along the I-94 corridor.

With funding for the proposed *Chippewa Valley NanoSTEM Initiative*, UW-Eau Claire and UW-Stout will enroll 172 new students in 2008-09. Between 2009-10 and 2012-13, the two campuses will enroll an additional 482 students in the proposed programs.

Estimated ongoing cost: \$3 million (\$2.2 million GPR / \$852,900 Fees)

For more information: Contact UW-Eau Claire Chancellor Brian Levin-Stankevich, 715-836-2327; or UW-Stout Chancellor Charles Sorensen, 715-232-2441