

SUMMARY - 3rd Annual Upper Mississippi River Conference

The i wireless Center, Moline, IL; August 25 – 27, 2010

For the third consecutive year, WIU's College of Arts & Sciences, through the Institute for Environmental Studies, has cosponsored the Upper Mississippi River Conference (UMRC). Since its inception in 2008, the UMRC has grown as a multidisciplinary venue for the exchange of information on contemporary issues of environmental, economic, and community sustainability along the Upper Mississippi River. The 2010 UMRC was attended by 145 registered participants from municipal, state, and federal agencies; nongovernmental organizations; higher education; and planning and design professionals.

As a cosponsor, WIU hosted the welcome reception which featured opening remarks by:

- Dr. Jack Thomas, WIU Provost & Academic Vice President
- Dr. Joe Rives, WIU Vice President for Quad Cities, Planning, & Technology
- Dr. Susan Martinelli-Fernandez, Dean, WIU College of Arts & Sciences

WIU speakers were followed by Kathy Wine, Executive Director of River Action, Col. Shawn McGinley, Commanding Officer of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' Rock Island District, and the Hon. Don Welavert, Mayor of the City of Moline.

During the welcome reception, WIU students, faculty, and staff provided attendees with a chance to experience Western's core values "in action". A total of 8 faculty, 5 staff, 7 graduate students, and 2 undergraduate students from both WIU campuses participated in the welcome reception. Eleven research posters were presented by students and faculty from the Department of Biological Sciences, the Department of Geography, and the Institute for Environmental Studies. Additionally, practical displays and demonstrations of GIS equipment were made by students and staff from WIU's GIS Center. Representatives from the Alice L. Kibbe Life Science Station, the Institute for Environmental Studies, and CAS Research & Outreach Services were also present to illustrate the depth and breadth of WIU's river research and outreach capabilities.

At the 2010 UMRC, participant engagement was taken to a new level with the addition of roundtable design and planning charettes – real-time collaborative design and planning exercises in which citizens, planning professionals, public officials, and subject matter experts from a wide range of supporting fields work together to arrive at workable solutions to proposed riverfront development projects. Two graduate students from the Department of English & Journalism with an interest in environmental rhetoric and communication participated as co-facilitators in the planning & design charettes. Each WIU student was teamed with an Urban & Regional Planning graduate student from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign and worked under the direction of a well known professional planner. At the close of the conference, each student team presented their findings and recommendations to a gathering of all conference attendees.

Significant support was provided by WIU-QC recruiters who were on hand throughout the conference to share information on WIU's academic offerings.

UMRC Attendance

145 attendees from 5 states & the District of Columbia:

- 1% from DC
- 30% from IA
- 1% from ID
- 63% from IL
- 3% from MO
- 2% from WI

WIU's Participation

7 Departments/Units

- Biological Sciences
- English & Journalism
- Geography
- GIS Center
- Institute for Environ. Studies
- Kibbe Life Science Station
- WIU QC Student Services/Admissions

25 Personnel

- 8 faculty
- 6 staff
- 11 students (9 GR; 2 UG)

13 Presentations

- 11 student/faculty research posters
- 2 student design presentations