



NATIONAL CENTER FOR
SCIENCE & CIVIC ENGAGEMENT
N C S C E



What is GLISTEN?

The Great Lakes Innovative Stewardship Through Education Network is a newly-funded project of the Learn and Serve America (LSA) program of the Corporation for National and Community Service, a federal agency best known for programs such as VISTA and AmeriCorps. The Corporation's LSA program supports the efforts of students in service-learning projects throughout the country. GLISTEN harnesses the expertise and innovation of undergraduate faculty in the STEM (science, technology, engineering, and mathematics) disciplines to promote stewardship of the Great Lakes. Specifically, GLISTEN builds the capacity of STEM faculty and departments to

- significantly increase their undergraduates' understanding of the STEM disciplines by engaging them in direct action (i.e., service-learning) and research directly benefiting resource-strapped governmental and community-based organizations
- better prepare those students for "green" professional opportunities likely to result from President Obama's \$5 billion pledge to restore the Great Lakes, and
- provide them with the basic scientific knowledge necessary to become enlightened stakeholders who exhibit proactive stewardship behaviors in their private lives.

How does GLISTEN function?

As a curricular development and implementation network, GLISTEN is a project of the National Center for Science and Civic Engagement (NCSCE) at the Harrisburg University of Science and Technology.

To accomplish its goals, GLISTEN makes subgrants to "Collaborative Clusters" throughout the Great Lakes states. Collaborative Cluster locations are distinguished by higher education institutions with STEM faculty already committed to collaboration, lakeshore proximity, and/or location in EPA's designated Areas of Concern with respect to attainment of clean water standards stipulated in the Clean Water Act.

Each cluster embraces at least one 4-year and 2-year undergraduate institution where Great-Lakes-focused courses will be developed and offered. They also include representation from the Areas of Concern as well as local Resource Conservation and Development Councils, with membership typically encompassing commissioners, planning commissions and soil and water conservation districts of multiple counties; these Councils serve as umbrella organizations connecting students and professors with community-based organizations. In addition, at least one venue for public dissemination of project outcomes in each cluster -- such as a science museum, nature center or state or national park -- ensures that outcomes of cluster projects are shared with the general public in ways that empower average citizens to engage more effectively in stewardship behaviors informed by scientific knowledge.

How can GLISTEN help my organization?

Through the undergraduate courses being developed and offered as part of the GLISTEN network, community-based organizations can deploy service-learning students to assist with their Great Lakes stewardship and restoration efforts during the academic year. In addition, full-time undergraduate stewardship liaisons may be available to these organizations during the summer months.

Can GLISTEN help my organization even if it's not located in an area receiving a subgrant to establish a Collaborative Cluster?

GLISTEN can still help your organization develop mutually-beneficial partnerships with higher education institutions in your area, and will be working with other Great-Lakes-wide stakeholders to make this possible.

Whom do I contact regarding GLISTEN?

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<http://www.ncsce.net/Initiatives/GLISTEN.cfm>