

## UWL Partnerships with K-12 Schools

- UWL is currently engaged in forty partnerships with over twenty school districts. These mutually beneficial relationships make wise use of taxpayer dollars by linking the efforts of the university with school districts in western Wisconsin and southeastern Minnesota.
- The partnerships, varied and diverse in character, range from the huge outreach programs for teachers and students sponsored by the **Mississippi Valley Archeology Center** and the work of **National History Day** which, in collaborating with area teachers, engages middle and high school students in historical research.
- On more of a micro level are, among many others, the dedicated efforts of biology professor Dan Gerber who established a fruitful partnership with Onalaska Public Schools through his program, "**Teachers Using Living Plants**" (TULIP) which provides botanical education for K-12 students.
- In perhaps one of the most unique collaborations in the state, **Colleen Miron** was appointed as a grant writer in 2000 with salary support from UW-La Crosse and La Crosse Public Schools. Since the partnership began she has been responsible for securing approximately \$3.4 million in extramural funding from a variety of state and federal agencies and private foundations. Among successfully funded programs are an extensive after-school program called the La Crosse Community Learning Center Consortium which involves seventeen community partners and two "Teaching American History" grants reaching educators in the La Crosse area and northern Wisconsin.
- **Teacher education**, one of the most widely-developed areas of collaboration with area school districts, involves a host of UWL students through clinicals, and student teaching. No less than 700 UWL students work in clinicals and student teaching every semester reach over 10,000 K-12 pupils in classrooms across the region.

- **What is the numerical scope of the entire network of UWL partnerships with K-12 institutions in human terms?**

During 2002 alone, an estimated thirty-eight UWL professors were engaged in partnerships with some twenty K-12 schools. These partnerships engaged an estimated 1400 UWL students.

- With budget debates continuing across the state of Wisconsin, elected officials and the taxpaying public should know that university partnerships with K-12 schools provide a "value-added" dimension to the dollars invested in these institutions. This is not a new development. In fact, the partnerships grew out of the ideals inherent in the Wisconsin Idea which envisions the university as closely linked to the surrounding community and attuned to local developments.