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Musky Clubs Alliance of Wisconsin, Inc. creates fisheries endowment at UW-Stevens Point

One of Wisconsin's largest fishing conservation organizations is making a major gift to establish a scholarship endowment to support fisheries students at the University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point (UWSP) College of Natural Resources.

The Musky Clubs Alliance of Wisconsin, Inc., representing 25 Wisconsin-based musky clubs, made the gift to UWSP Foundation as part of a \$100,000 commitment to create the fund. Earnings from the endowment will support Musky Clubs Alliance of Wisconsin, Inc. scholarship awards at UWSP for the foreseeable future, primarily for graduate or undergraduate students from Wisconsin.

Christine Thomas, dean of the College of Natural Resources, says the gift follows a long history of support from the Alliance. "The Alliance has annually supported numerous scholarships for our fisheries students over the years – a total of 58 awards since 2004 – and many of those students have advanced to successful careers in fisheries management in Wisconsin," she said. "This endowment takes their commitment to a new level, ensuring these scholarships will be available in perpetuity, ultimately helping aspiring professionals to preserve and protect our precious fisheries resources."

Alliance president, Larry Slagoski, says it is the only conservation organization focused solely on protecting and enhancing the muskellunge fishery within the state of Wisconsin. The group sponsors an annual boat raffle and co-sponsors the National Championship Musky Open Tournament held in Eagle River, in addition to providing an organizational framework for individual clubs to share information, work together, and raise money for musky-related projects, activities and scholarships statewide.

The fisheries program at the UWSP College of Natural Resources is a national leader, with 164 undergraduate majors and 10 graduate students (2018). The program also features the Wisconsin Cooperative Fishery Research Unit (state and federal research), Fisheries Analysis Center, Fish Propagation Science Center, Aquatic Bio-monitoring Laboratory, and the Water and Environmental Analysis Laboratory.

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Photo Caption:

Musky Clubs Alliance of Wisconsin, Inc. representatives Larry Slagoski, president (center right), Bob Munsen, treasurer (2nd from right) and Don Gilbert, secretary (far right) present a check for their \$100,000 commitment to UW-Stevens Point College of Natural Resources (CNR) representatives Dr. Christine Thomas, dean (center left), Steve Menzel, UWSP development director (2nd from left) and Mike Staggs, CNR Advisory Board member (far left). Missing from the photo are Alliance representatives Chuck Brod, vice president, and Dave Allen, executive director.