



## Great Lakes Water Studies Institute Northwestern Michigan College

*Inspiring lifelong stewardship of freshwater through education, partnership and convening.*



The Great Lakes Water Studies Institute at Northwestern Michigan College aims to inspire lifelong stewardship of freshwater through education, partnership and convening. Each of the Institute's education programs uses a **place-based education** approach, where participants learn about freshwater resources by exploring their own watershed and by interacting with community partners in water-related fields. With a uniquely collaborative spirit, teachers, students and community partners work together on locally-relevant water-related issues. Participants gain a stronger connection to their **place**, prompting more frequent and effective acts of stewardship.

### The Great Lakes Water Studies Institute offers:

- ◆ College-level Watershed Science courses
- ◆ Professional development programs for teachers, environmental professionals and government officials
- ◆ Community-based workshops for adults and families
- ◆ Special events such as Kid's Free Fishing Day and the Traverse City celebration of the Healthy Lakes Healthy Lives Tour

Great Lakes research and watershed management theory is brought to life through authentic place-based experiences for all ages.

In addition to its education programs, the Great Lakes Water Studies Institute plays an important role as a **neutral convener** for discussions related to freshwater. Local water resource groups are encouraged to work together to leverage resources, minimize duplication and work toward a regional freshwater strategy.

**For more information about the Great Lakes Water Studies Institute, please contact:**



**Colleen Masterson**  
Great Lakes Water Studies Institute  
Northwestern Michigan College  
1701 E. Front Street  
Traverse City, MI 49686  
(231) 995-1722 phone  
(231) 995-1794 fax  
cmasterson@nmc.edu

