

SIX LESSONS FOR BUILDING AND SUSTAINING PARTNERSHIPS

As the case studies presented during the workshop demonstrated, there are common elements to building state-university partnerships. The principles below can help to guide new partnership development and sustain them as they grow:

- ✓ **Plan together from the start.**
- ✓ **Build relationships.** Take time to get to know each other and understand each other's interests, mission, resources, constraints and work place culture. As a partnership develops, learn your partners' favorite beer and the names of their children. Maintain purposeful communication to keep up momentum.
- ✓ **Find mutual benefits.** Look for areas where missions and interests overlap. Benefits for each party could be different, but you should know what your partner wants to get out of a project.
- ✓ **Start small and build gradually.** Time and resources will always be limited. Be creative about funding and celebrate small successes.
- ✓ **Develop distinct and appropriate roles.** Roles should be well aligned with personal expertise and institutional capacity. Identify and foster a champion that can help coordinate efforts, providing a backbone of support.
- ✓ **Be flexible.** Challenges are inevitable. Be candid about limitations and resources and look for creative solutions.

Workshop Case Studies

- Long-term Wetland Monitoring – Don Uzarski and Anne Garwood
 - ❖ [Great Lakes Coastal Wetland Monitoring Program \(CWMP\) website](#)
- High Impact Targeting (HIT) Tool – Jeremiah Asher and Joseph Kelpinski
 - ❖ [Great Lakes Watershed Management System webpage](#)
 - ❖ [Michigan Agriculture Environmental Assurance Program website](#)
- Long-term Cooperative Facility Agreement – Ashley Moerke and Gary Whelan
 - ❖ [Hunt Creek Field Station – Careers in Natural Resources Camp webpage](#)
- State-wide Beach Monitoring Program – Shannon Briggs, Tami Sivy, Erin Dreelin, Chris Vernier
 - ❖ [Michigan Beach Monitoring Program website](#)

