The College of Agriculture, Food Systems, and Natural Resources is a strong supporter of a Learning Community program adopted by NDSU in 2003. Building a Caring Community of Leaders and Problem-Solvers (CCLP) is a novel first year curriculum that integrates development of leadership, communication, problem-solving skills, and service learning, within a caring environment. It is the only Learning Community program known that integrates these four important components. It began in 2003 with 100 students (four communities), expanded to 200 students (all NDSU Colleges) this year, and will grow during the next two years to include all freshmen. The goals of the program are to foster the development of these four components, as well as overall student learning and student retention. An additional positive outcome of this program is the collaboration of faculty from across the NDSU campus. These collaborations have generated several other benefits to student learning and retention.

In keeping with the NDSU, CCLP and NRM mission (listed below), the NRM Program Director emphasizes the importance of offering leadership opportunities to the NRM students. The program includes a seminar course that encourages classroom discussion and participation. Similar to the CCLP program students are introduced to the situational and transformational leadership skills that are needed to create better working and social environments in our world today.

**NDSU Mission:** North Dakota State University affirms its heritage as North Dakota's land-grant institution. Through its colleges, station, and extension, NDSU, as a member of North Dakota University System, provides instruction, research, and public service. NDSU educates and serves the people of North Dakota, the region, the nation, and the international community by discovering, communicating, applying, and preserving knowledge. The University fosters the personal growth of individuals by creating an environment which nurtures intellectual, social, and cultural development. It offers academic and professional programs which lead to degrees from the baccalaureate through the doctorate. NDSU assumes a coordinating role in the North Dakota University System for academic computing and economic development. The University provides Information systems necessary to accomplish its mission.

**CCLP Mission:** As a land-grant university, North Dakota State University fosters the personal growth of individuals by creating an environment that nurtures the intellectual, social, and cultural development of people, including students, faculty, and staff. This proposal seeks to foster the growth and development of individuals by building a caring community of leaders and problem-solvers.
**NRM Mission:** The mission of the Natural Resources Management Program at North Dakota State University is to establish and implement educational and research programs directed toward the training of students in areas of natural resources expertise, enabling them to employ this knowledge in solving problems associated with the management of natural resources for their highest and best uses for society while maintaining the integrity of natural systems.

Tied to this concept the NRM program, with the support of the entire campus community, participates in creating a highly effective environment for the development of individuals by integrating theory and practice of effective leadership into curricula. Students will demonstrate leadership talents and attitudes through active participation in service learning and will be empowered to become efficient agents of social change.

Another emphasis in the NRM Program is Situation-Based Learning. NDSU’s faculty and staff are encouraged to attend on-campus training sessions that focus on problem-based learning techniques in the classroom. The Natural Resources Management Program at North Dakota State University prepares students for careers that require an understanding of the social, biological and physical aspects of managing natural resources including air, water, soils, forests, land and wildlife. Because it emphasizes problem solving, the program prepares students to deal with problems and issues that reach beyond a single discipline or subject area. It is a management-oriented program that integrates the social, physical and biological aspects of natural resources into one program of study.

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NRM Web Site – [www.ndsu.nodak.edu/nrm](http://www.ndsu.nodak.edu/nrm)