



ROBERT KRUEGER | PUSHING FORWARD

An Oklahoma native, Rob Krueger has embraced Worcester as his hometown and as a working model for his academic research on the growth of cities. Director of WPI's Worcester Community Project Center (WCPC), director of environmental studies, and assistant professor of geography, Krueger is known internationally for his groundbreaking scholarship on sustainable development, an emerging field that connects economic development with long-term environmental responsibility and a commitment to social justice.

Locally, he is known for putting those principles into practice to benefit the City of Worcester. "I don't do it because it's my job," Krueger says. "I do it because it's my passion."

Under his direction, student project teams at the Worcester center work with local leaders to formulate solutions to the city's problems. The annual value to the city includes more than 12,000 student hours, and 900 hours from WPI faculty. One very visible result is Gateway Park, built on formerly toxic brownfields, which were cleaned up and reclaimed through the research of WPI project teams. "In partnership," he says, "we can help the city identify its key needs and find best practices to address them."

In 2007 the WCPC and Krueger received the inaugural Alden Award for Excellence in Higher Education from the Colleges of Worcester Consortium for campus-based educational excellence. He was also honored by WPI with the 2007 Romeo L. Moruzzi Young Faculty Award for Innovation in Undergraduate Education. And his recent book (with co-editor David Gibbs of the University of Hull, England), *The Sustainable Development Paradox: Urban Political Economy in the United States and Europe*, brings together international scholars to define the crucial issues in the field.

While Krueger enjoys the rich heritage of Worcester's innovative industrial past, he also takes an active role in ensuring its prosperity. "We have the potential to push Worcester forward into being something better than it is now," he says, "building on its strengths and capitalizing on its assets."