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### 2013 Commencement Ceremony Held in the P.E. Center

University Relations

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**2013 Commencement Ceremony Held in the P.E. Center**

*Summary: Nearly 350 students will receive their degrees during the 50th Commencement on Saturday, May 11.*

(April 30, 2013)-Nearly 350 University of Minnesota, Morris students will receive their degrees during the 50th Commencement on Saturday, May 11. The ceremony will take place in the P.E. Center at 1:30 p.m. The public is invited to attend the ceremony, to watch the event streamed online, or to listen on KMRS/KKOK radio.

The Symphonic Winds, under the direction of Simon Tillier, teaching specialist of music, and the Concert Choir, under the direction of Christina Armendarez, assistant professor of music, will perform prior to and throughout the ceremony. Accompanied by Symphonic Winds, Mary Preus '13, Mayville, North Dakota, will sing "The Star Spangled Banner." In recognition of the campus's origins as an American Indian boarding school, the Midnite Express Singers will perform a Native American Honor Song to recognize and pay tribute to the Class of 2013.

Chancellor Jacqueline R. Johnson will provide the welcome and recognition of special guests, and University of Minnesota Regent Thomas Devine will give additional remarks. As the 2013 recipient of the Curtis H. Larson Award, Holly Gruntner '13, Chisago City, will speak on behalf of the graduates.

United States Senator Al Franken will provide the graduation address. Senator Franken was elected to the United States Senate in 2008 as a member of the Democratic-Farmer-Labor (DFL) Party from Minnesota. He is a long-time advocate for affordable, accessible health care, an economy that works for the middle class, the protection of a secure retirement, the promise of a twenty-first century education for children, and the creation of a green economy that creates jobs and improves the environment.

After the conferring of degrees, University of Minnesota, Morris Alumni Association president Suzanne Hendricks Basiago '87 will welcome the new graduates into the University of Minnesota, Morris Alumni Association. Following the ceremony, a reception will be held in the Student Center's Oyate Hall. Commencement guests are invited to view the 2013 Senior Art Show in the Humanities Fine Arts Gallery before or after the ceremony.

Commencement will be streamed online, beginning at 1 p.m. The program begins at 1:30 p.m. An archived copy will be available for viewing following the ceremony. Additional information, including a complete Commencement schedule, information, and updates, is available [online](#).

Through personal and academic discovery, the University of Minnesota, Morris provides opportunities for students to grow intellectually, engage in community, experience environmental stewardship and celebrate diversity. A renewable and sustainable educational experience, Morris prepares graduates for careers, for advanced degrees, for lifelong learning, for work world flexibility in the future, and for global citizenship. Learn more about Morris at [morris.umn.edu](http://morris.umn.edu) or call 888-866-3382.