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Celebration of American Indian Culture at the 28th Annual Circle of Nations Indigenous Association Powwow

Summary: The Physical Education (P.E.) Center will come alive in a colorful expression of song and dance on the weekend of March 24, 2012, when the students of the Circle of Nations Indigenous Association (CNIA) hold its 28th Annual CNIA Powwow.

(March 23, 2012)-The Physical Education (P.E.) Center will come alive in a colorful expression of song and dance on the weekend of March 24, 2012, when the students of the Circle of Nations Indigenous Association (CNIA) hold its 28th Annual CNIA Powwow. In 2011, the event featured over one hundred and thirty American Indian dancers and singers representing many different Native Nations in the United States and Canada. This year's event is expected to exceed that number.

Powwows are social gatherings of hundreds of American Indians who follow dances choreographed centuries earlier by their ancestors, and which continually evolve to include contemporary practices. Usually held between April and October, these events of feasting, powwow music, and dance are attended by Natives and non-Natives, all of whom join in the dancing and take advantage of the opportunity to see old friends and teach the traditional ways to a younger generation.

The CNIA Powwow, a free public event, will be held at the P.E. Center located on the University of Minnesota, Morris campus on East 2nd Street. The CNIA Powwow is a wonderful opportunity to introduce the Morris area to a contemporary style powwow with all of the dancing, feasting, and coming together of Indian people that accompanies such events. The audience will experience dancers, representing different tribal nations, dressed in their full traditional regalia. Authentic Native arts and crafts may be purchased directly from noted jewelers and artisans.

The drum groups are the heart & soul of all powwows, providing the pulsating beats that accompany the dancers' every movement. The host drum this year will be Northern Wind from Lake of the Woods, Ontario, Canada. Other area drum groups from surrounding Native communities in South Dakota, North Dakota and Minnesota will also be present.

Each powwow begins with the Grand Entry, a ceremonial procession of all the Native dancers entering the dance arena. Grand Entry will occur at 1 p.m. and 7 p.m. on Saturday, March 24, 2012. Doors open at 11 a.m. The event is free and parking is readily available at the South Parking Lot near Big Cat Stadium.

For additional information about the 28th Annual CNIA Powwow, call 320-589-6097, [email](#), or visit the [CNIA Powwow website](#).

This event celebrates Native wellness therefore, absolutely no alcohol or drugs are allowed. A non-profit student organization, the CNIA Powwow Committee depends on university, local, and tribal support for its yearly event.

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 or call 888-866-3382.