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Naomi Wenté '13, Dodge Center, receives Newman Civic Fellow Award from Campus Compact

Summary: The award honors student leaders who demonstrate an investment in finding solutions for challenges facing communities throughout the country.

(May 2, 2011)-Campus Compact has announced that Naomi Wenté, Dodge Center, a student at the University of Minnesota, Morris has been honored as a Newman Civic Fellow. The Newman Civic Fellows Awards recognize inspiring college student leaders who have demonstrated an investment in finding solutions for challenges facing communities throughout the country.

From 30 states, college and university presidents nominated the best-of-the-best: promising college student leaders who demonstrate an investment in finding solutions for challenges facing communities throughout the country. Through service, research, and advocacy, these Newman Civic Fellows are making the most of their college experiences to better understand themselves, the root causes of social issues, and effective mechanisms for creating lasting change.

“These students represent the next generation of public problem solvers and civic leaders. They serve as national examples of the role that higher education can—and does play in building a better world,” explains Campus Compact President Maureen F. Curley.

Wenté, a second-year student at Morris, is a student leader active around the issues of local foods and human rights. For the last two years, Wenté has been integral in bringing campus and community together in the movement toward more sustainable food production in the community. Recently, she was named president of the Pomme De Terre Food Co-op, a local nonprofit. In addition, Wenté continues to lead “One Toilet at a Time,” an effort she began at age 14 to provide Cambodian girls with access to safe sanitation and water.

Dr. Frank Newman—one of the founders of Campus Compact—had a tremendous impact on American education and its role in the development of citizens who are eager and prepared to make a difference. He dedicated his life to creating systemic change through education reform, and this first group of Newman Civic Fellows would have inspired him. They are reflections and affirmations of his life’s work.

Campus Compact is a national coalition of more than 1,100 college and university presidents—representing some 6 million students—who are committed to fulfilling the civic purposes of higher education to improve community life and to educate students for civic and social responsibility. Through the Newman Civic Fellows Awards, college and university presidents acknowledge students with the ability and motivation to create lasting change in our communities.

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.