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Josh Preston '13, Montevideo, selected to attend the National Rural Youth Assembly

Summary: Assembly attendees will work together to educate themselves in the skills necessary to raise the quality of education, protect the land, air, and water, and nurture the economies of rural communities.

(April 13, 2010)-Joshua Preston '13, Montevideo, political science and economics, has been invited to attend the National Rural Youth Assembly (NRYA) in Santa Fe, New Mexico, on April 22–25, 2010.

Selected from more than 450 applicants, Preston is one of fifty-three participants who will use the assembly to explore issues important to their communities. These young people were nominated for being leaders who care for and want to make a positive impact on their communities and will represent the diversity found in rural America, from varying races, genders, cultures, geographies, incomes, and sexual orientations. They will work together to educate themselves in the skills necessary to raise the quality of education, protect the land, air, and water, and nurture the economies of rural communities.

“Quite simply,” says Preston, “the assembly is about improving the lives of those who make our rural communities great: the people.

“What I am looking forward to the most about the NRYA is the opportunity to meet with other like-minded youth and discuss solution to our communities’ most pressing challenges. Growing up in Montevideo and going to school in Morris, I am passionate about western rural Minnesota and have dedicated myself to fighting its most pressing challenges. By attending the NRYA, I think I will be a stronger leader and better suited to do that.”

The National Rural Assembly hosts the event. The people and organizations involved in the assembly have made it their goal to build a stronger, vibrant rural America for their families and communities, thereby strengthening the country as a whole. More than 500 local, regional, and national organizations participate in the assembly, representing 47 states and the District of Columbia.

Photo: Josh Preston

Photo credit: Cassie Hall '13

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