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10-22-2009

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University Relations, "Soup and Substance to focus on immigration and highlight service opportunities" (2009). *Campus News Archive*. 1371.

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Soup and Substance to focus on immigration and highlight service opportunities

Summary: Named for the pairing of a delicious meal with meaningful dialogue, the event is open to all members of the community to share experiences and perspectives.

(October 22, 2009)-The University of Minnesota, Morris will host Soup and Substance on Monday, November 2, 2009, at 6 p.m. in the Alumni Room in the Student Center. The event provides an open forum for members of Stevens County and the campus community to discuss issues of local, regional, national, and international importance. Everyone is invited to join the discussion on immigration and to enjoy complimentary chili and corn bread.

Soup and Substance—named for the pairing of a delicious meal with meaningful dialogue—is open to all members of the community to share experiences and perspectives. The event provides a space in which all voices are heard, including those sometimes marginalized. People with direct topic experience facilitate the discussion.

The November event will explore immigration to the United States. Immigration, which has received significant media attention in recent years, affects nearly every community in the United States, including ours. Soup and Substance will explore reasons for immigration, immigrant experiences, and community impact. Local service providers will join the discussion and provide information on Stevens County area volunteer opportunities that touch the lives of immigrant populations.

Argie Manolis, Office of Community Engagement coordinator, states: “The foreign born population of Stevens County has climbed rapidly in recent years, resulting in an increase in the racial, ethnic, and linguistic diversity of the area. Immigration has prompted changes in our community and represents an opportunity for us to reflect on strategies for creating an inclusive and supportive living environment for everyone.”

The Office of Community Engagement sponsors Soup and Substance, a monthly campus event. For more information, contact student representative Matthew Johnson at 320-589-3349 or joh06876@morris.umn.edu.

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