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Dave Swenson chairs, other UMMers will present at ACUI conference

Summary: Dave Swenson, director of Student Activities at the University of Minnesota, Morris, is chairing the conference planning team for the 2008 Association of College Unions International Regional Conference “Reach FARGO Beyond: The Crossroads of Change.” The conference will be held November 6-8 in the Memorial Union of North Dakota State University.

(October 27, 2008)-Dave Swenson, director of Student Activities at the University of Minnesota, Morris, is chairing the conference planning team for the 2008 Association of College Unions International (ACUI) Regional Conference “Reach FARGO Beyond: The Crossroads of Change.” The conference will be held November 6-8 in the Memorial Union of North Dakota State University.

ACUI is a nonprofit educational organization, founded in 1914 and consisting of nearly 1,000 member institutions worldwide from urban and rural campuses, four-year and two-year schools, large universities and small colleges. ACUI and its member institutions’ common goal is to help college unions improve their programs and services and to be effective contributors to individual growth and development.

“This conference has been a labor of love,” said Swenson. “I have had the great fortune of leading a team of student union and activities professionals from across the region for the last year to bring this program to reality. We have an amazing program of educational sessions and keynote speakers as well as the opportunity to tour and study three different student unions in action.”

A portion of the conference’s agenda will consist of the presentation of educational sessions that address issues that colleges face in the area of student unions and activities work.

Among the presentations, Swenson and Morris Campus Sustainability Coordinator Troy Goodnough will discuss “Sustainability Not Just For ‘Tree-Huggers’: One Small School’s Journey to Becoming GREEN.” This session will explain the three-legged stool model of sustainability and how UMM is using this model to create a more responsible campus environment dedicated to these principles.

Henry Fulda, Morris campus assistant vice chancellor for student life, and Swenson will present “Recognizing and Addressing Mental Health Issues in Higher Education” to help staff learn about current treatment and management of mental health issues among university student populations. Using case studies, participants will learn to recognize behavior symptomatic of mental illness and explore the best way to reach and help students dealing with a mental health crisis.

Morris campus Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs Sandy Olson-Loy and UMM student Ashley Gaschk will present a session, titled “Changing Models for our Work: Building Campus Partnerships to Foster Civic Engagement and Student Learning.” This session explores contemporary models for fostering civic engagement and student learning through campus partnerships centered in student affairs and academic affairs.

UMM students Sydney Sweep and Laura Woltjer will also attend the conference.

In addition to Swenson, the 2008 Conference Planning Team consists of: Steve Winfrey, North Dakota State University, Chris Suriano, North Dakota State University, Amy Graff, North Dakota State University, T.Todd Masman, Carleton College, Bart Schmitz, Northern Iowa University, Tony Trimarco, University of North Dakota, Lisa Samuelson, University of Minnesota, Crookston, Paul Wraalstad, Concordia College, Laurie Woodward, Minnesota State University, Mankato, Genevieve Evans Taylor, University of South Dakota, and Pat Keenan, University of Minnesota, Duluth.

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