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UMM students served an "ACE"

Summary: Establishing the Academic Center for Enrichment at the University of Minnesota, Morris in 2008 was a groundbreaking decision that further distinguishes the campus. UMM is the only University of Minnesota campus with such a program.

(October 2, 2008)-Establishing the Academic Center for Enrichment (ACE) at the University of Minnesota, Morris (UMM) in 2008 was a groundbreaking decision that further distinguishes the campus. Currently the only University of Minnesota campus with such a program, UMM joins a unique community of other renowned higher education schools like Williams and Amherst Colleges with similar programs.

ACE connects UMM students to extracurricular stimulation and academic enrichment that goes beyond their classroom assignments. It is a new one-stop center that showcases UMM's student-focused programs and services which expand the classroom, including study abroad, national scholarships, the honors program, undergraduate research opportunities, the National Student Exchange and internships. The primary goal of ACE is to offer a unified foundation providing information on, assistance with, and preparation for a variety of alternative venues regarding academic opportunities and development.

ACE Director and UMM Assistant Professor of Political Science Paula O'Loughlin said, "The creation of this office takes a special kind of campus, a campus committed to synergistic learning inside and outside the classroom. A lot of people teamed up to make this happen."

The ACE office welcomes and encourages all students to visit and to learn about opportunities they aren't aware of. ACE provides a strong sense of community and is an appropriate place to make connections and bridge with other students who also value a scholarly UMM experience that extends beyond the classroom.

Cody Miller, a regular ACE patron, said, "Much like UMM itself, the ACE office is a hidden gem that enriches any student willing to find it."

The office offers a comfortable, pressure-free environment and always has free tea and candy for visitors. In its recent new location, in room five in the lower level of the UMM the Student Center, ACE holds office hours from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Monday, Thursday and Friday, and from 11 a.m. to 8 p.m. Tuesday and Wednesday. Further details and information can be obtained by visiting the [ACE](#) Web site.

"ACE offers every student access to truly exciting opportunities that take their first-rate in-classroom experience to the world class level in and outside the classroom. These enrichment opportunities enhance the classroom aspect of the high quality liberal arts program already available for Morris campus students," said O'Loughlin.

Photo: ACE Director Paula O'Loughlin meets in the ACE office with senior Robert Henjum.

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.