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Michael Rodriguez to receive distinguished alumni honor

Summary: The University of Minnesota, Morris Alumni Association Board has named Michael C. Rodriguez as the Distinguished Alumni Award recipient. The award will be presented during the Distinguished Alumni Award and Cougar Hall of Fame Dinner at 6 p.m. Friday, Oct. 3, in Oyate Hall as part of UMM's Homecoming celebration.

(September 22, 2008)-The University of Minnesota, Morris Alumni Association (UMMAA) Board has named Michael C. Rodriguez as the Distinguished Alumni Award recipient. The award will be presented during the Distinguished Alumni Award and Cougar Hall of Fame Dinner at 6 p.m. Friday, Oct. 3, in Oyate Hall as part of UMM's Homecoming celebration.

The Distinguished Alumni Award honors UMM alumni who have made noteworthy contributions in their professional lives, in public service or in service to the University of Minnesota.

A reception for Rodriguez will also be held at 3 p.m. Friday in the Multi-Ethnic Resource Center.

Rodriguez is an associate professor of quantitative methods in education in the Department of Educational Psychology at the University of Minnesota's College of Education and Human Development (CEHD). He is also program coordinator for the program and director of the Office of Research Consultation and Services, CEHD.

He earned a bachelor's degree in psychology while at UMM. He studied in curriculum and instruction at the University's Minneapolis Campus College of Education. He holds a master's degree from the University's Hubert H. Humphrey Institute of Public Affairs with concentrations in social policy with an emphasis in education policy. In addition, he holds a doctor of philosophy from Michigan State University's College of Education with a concentration in educational measurement and psychometrics.

A prolific author of books and articles on the topic of educational psychology, Rodriguez has also received the 2008 Robert H. Beck Faculty Teaching Award from the College of Education & Human Development Alumni Society at the University of Minnesota. In 2005, he received the Albert J. Harris Research Award of the International Reading Association for the article: "Reading growth in high-poverty classrooms: The influence of teacher practices that encourage cognitive engagement in literacy learning," published in the *Elementary School Journal*. He has also received the University's CEHD Community Service Award.

Rodriguez is a member of the American Educational Research Association, the American Psychological Association and the National Council on Measurement in Education.

"Homecoming, with its celebratory and nostalgic mood, brings alumni back to campus each year for a variety of reasons. This year, I am especially pleased that Dr. Michael Rodriguez will be returning to campus to receive this award," said Carla Riley, director of alumni relations and annual giving. "We will celebrate Dr. Rodriguez as an accomplished educator, researcher, author, mentor and advocate for underrepresented students of color in rural Minnesota. His return

to campus during Homecoming will afford him the opportunity to visit with current students and alumni, and it will afford UMM the opportunity to thank him for his continued service to UMM and to honor him for his many accomplishments."

To learn more about the UMMAA Distinguished Alumni Award, visit www.morris.umn.edu/alumni and click on Distinguished Alumni Award.

For a complete schedule visit [Homecoming Events](#).

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.