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Contact

Melissa Weber, Director of Communications
Phone: 320-589-6414, weberm@morris.umn.edu

Jenna Ray, Editor/Writer
Phone: 320-589-6068, jrray@morris.umn.edu

UMM celebrates Beautiful U Day Thursday

Summary: UMM will join other University of Minnesota campuses to celebrate the 10th annual University of Minnesota Beautiful U Day on Thursday, April 17. The event is set between 10 a.m. and 3 p.m. with tables set up in the UMM Student Center lobby for each event and giveaway.

(April 14, 2008)-By Sarah Deutl '11, Anoka -- The University of Minnesota, Morris will join other University of Minnesota campuses to celebrate the 10th annual University of Minnesota Beautiful U Day on Thursday, April 17. The event is set between 10 a.m. and 3 p.m. with tables set up in the UMM Student Center lobby for each event and giveaway.

In addition to three Beautiful U Day grants for projects identified later in this story, each campus is given grant money to fund additional projects. UMM remains unique in its choice of how to use the grant funds, according to the Morris campus Beautiful U Day Committee: The committee will use the grant money, along with donations from other campus offices, to purchase re-usable canvas grocery bags. The idea was generated by Rita Lambert, Student Activities office manager who is a member of the BU Day Committee. The bags will be available at no cost to all UMM students.

The bags are designed to encourage students to shop locally. Each bag will contain the recycling symbol as well as the Community Services, Office of Residential Life and Beautiful U Day committee logos, each of which made a donation to purchase the bags. In addition, a fact sheet containing information such as how many plastic bags are used each year, how much these canvas bags will help the environment, etc., will be inserted into each bag.

In conjunction with the bag project, Carol McCannon and Lambert, both of Student Activities at UMM, are making plans to hold a 'left-over T-shirt sale.' The T-shirts are 'left-overs' from campus organizations over the years and will be on sale for one dollar. Proceeds from the sale will go toward the annual purchase of re-usable bags. Bags that remain from a given year will be sold for \$2 each with the proceeds also going to purchasing more bags.

Beautiful U Day grants will fund the following projects on the Morris campus:

The Art Club will renovate the campus' wood kiln. Kevin Flicker, ceramics teaching specialist, will oversee this particular project. The kiln sits on the northeast edge of campus and is the first visible building when approaching campus from the east on Alumni Drive. The kiln is used once per semester for three days of firing by hundreds of UMM students, as well as community members and visiting artists from regional high schools and colleges who take part.

Built in 2003, the shed's walls of the kiln have consisted of nylon tarps that shred quickly in high winds. The project's goal is to replace the tarps with permanent metal siding and doors. The wooded area will also be improved by removing brush, debris and scrap concrete and pallet piles that are a direct result of years of dumping dogwood windbreaks will be planted on the east and southeast fence lines and 10 birdhouses will be installed. The beneficiaries of this project will be current and future students and other participants who annually load and fire the kiln, wildlife in the immediate area, the UMM Saddle Club, whose pasture is adjacent to the site and all visitors to the campus. Students can take part in planting

and other debris/cleanup removal. A UMM carpenter will apply the metal siding.

The UMM chapter of Habitat for Humanity will sponsor Pot-Your-Own-Plant. A selection of plants from which each participant can choose one to three plants will be available at a station in the Student Center. Participants can plant them in a four-inch terra cotta pot with soil that is provided. A variety of flowering plants, perennials and houseplants will be available to choose from. Habitat for Humanity expects to get the campus excited about Beautiful U Day and encourage involvement in the other featured projects. Participants are welcome to bring their plants back to their residence halls and offices. The idea, found on the University's Crookston campus Beautiful U Day Web site, is one that the club hopes will become a tradition. Jan Anderson of Anderson Acres in Morris has expressed interest in helping participants pot their plant to ensure correct potting and a long life for the plant. Anderson Acres will also provide free packets of time-release fertilizer for each plant.

The local Minnesota Public Interest Research Group (MPIRG), in partnership with the UMM Office of University Relations, received a Beautiful U Day grant to purchase signs to identify which campus buildings are powered by renewable energy. Because UMM is a national leader in green energy, the goal is to help current and prospective students, faculty and staff and visitors to the campus visualize the initiatives throughout the campus. The project will help to reinforce the impact UMM and its energy partners are making in the local community and beyond through signs that identify that each building is significant in the campus' goal to be energy self-sufficient by 2010. Sign holders will be placed in main entrances of buildings on campus to illustrate that the building is powered by renewable and sustainable energy. Each sign holder will be designed so it can be updated as more green initiatives are realized in that building.

UMM students who present their campus identification can also pick up a free light bulb in the Student Center that will reduce carbon dioxide emissions by 1,028.549 pounds each year.

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.