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2-7-2008

### Support the U Day February 20

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#### Recommended Citation

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**MORRIS**

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**Support the U Day February 20**

*Summary: University of Minnesota, Morris students, staff and faculty, alumni and volunteers will join with other U of M supporters at the Minnesota State Capitol for Support the U Day February 20.*

(February 7, 2008)-University of Minnesota, Morris students, staff and faculty, alumni and volunteers will join with other U of M supporters at the Minnesota State Capitol for Support the U Day February 20. Hundreds of University supporters from across the state will be at the Capitol urging legislators to support the University's legislative requests and sharing their personal University-related stories.

This event will provide a unique opportunity for all supporters to join together and directly influence legislation that impacts not only the University and the state, but also one's own community.

"Support the U Day encourages support for [the University of Minnesota] from the state government in a personal way," said Escillia Allen, a fourth year student at UMM and the UMM student legislative coordinator. "Support the U Day provides a unique and valuable learning experience for students to understand the functions and processes of government in a way that effects them directly. Also, it gives attendees an opportunity to share with legislators what is important to them and that they are serious constituents and participants in the political process. The University of Minnesota has given so much to us as individuals, as well as to the state of Minnesota. The University of Minnesota supports us, we need to support the University in return"

State Auditor Rebecca Otto will be the keynote speaker at the rally and a student speaker from each campus will have an opportunity to tell why the University of Minnesota is so important to them. Douglas Williams, a first year transfer student and student leader at UMM, will speak on behalf of the Morris campus.

Following the rally, participants can meet with legislators from their home districts about the University of Minnesota's initiatives for this year's budget.

"The initiatives for the UMM campus include the remodeling of the historic Community Services building into the Gateway Center Project," added Allen. Attendees will also be able to observe and attend higher education committee meetings, any other committee meetings that interest them, as well as floor legislative sessions.

"In this way, Support the U Day serves to benefit the University of Minnesota, which in turn benefits its students and the state of Minnesota as a whole," said Allen.

The day's agenda at the capitol includes:

Noon Rally in the Minnesota State Capitol Rotunda  
12:45 p.m. Lunch in the Great Hall, Minnesota State Capitol  
1 p.m. Meetings with legislators (optional)

To participate, register online at [Support the U Day](#).

There will be a meeting in the UMM Student Center at 8 a.m. on February 20. Buses will depart from the campus' North Parking Lot at 8:30 a.m. and from the capitol at 3 p.m. the same day.

For more information contact Escillia Allen, UMM student legislative coordinator, at [Escillia Allen](#).

To contact your legislator, visit [Legislative Network](#).

Photo: UMM at the capitol during the 2007 Support the U Day

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](http://morris.umn.edu) or call 888-866-3382.