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Beautiful U Day grants to enhance campus

Summary: The Minnesota Public Interest Research Group (MPIRG) at the University of Minnesota, Morris, is one of several groups University wide to receive a Beautiful U Day grant. The nearly \$1,000 grant, funded by the University system, will fund an art painting project.

(April 16, 2007)-The Minnesota Public Interest Research Group (MPIRG) at the University of Minnesota, Morris, is one of several groups University wide to receive a Beautiful U Day grant. The nearly \$1,000 grant, funded by the University system, will fund an art painting project.

The paintings will represent Minnesota prairie scenes, similar to a painting that currently hangs in the Blue Stem Meeting room, located in the lower level of the UMM Student Center. Junior high and senior high students from the Morris Area school district will be invited to help paint the pictures which will be hung around campus.

“MPIRG is donating the pictures to campus, which will decide where to display the art,” said Cassandra Luetmer, junior studio art and K-12 education major at UMM. Luetmer, who is a member of MPIRG, said, “This project is really great not only because it’s funded by a Beautiful U grant and it will beautify the U, but the paintings will be made with environmentally friendly paint and local supplies, fitting in with the MPIRG environmental task force ideals. The project also builds community by bringing together non-campus and campus community members to help out with this project.”

MPIRG invites others to join in on this Beautiful U Day project on April 19 beginning at 8:30 a.m. on the campus mall. In case of rain, the event will be held in the UMM Student Center. To participate contact Cassandra Luetmer at [Leutmer](#).

In 2007, Beautiful U Day grants will fund 27 campus beautification projects across the state. University departments and student groups on all campuses used the funding for projects including: litter clean-up, landscaping improvements, academic symposia, arts projects and building clean-outs. Other projects on the Morris campus that received Beautiful U Day grants include:

**University of Minnesota Morris Plant Services – Grounds
Tree Line Between the University and Morris High School**

A walking path between the University of Minnesota Morris and Morris High School is a common route for community members traveling to the new Morris Big Cat Stadium. The Tree Line project will add trees to the area and will beautify and clean up a heavily traveled area between the schools.

**University of Minnesota Morris Saddle Club
Hay! Clean it Up**

The UMM Saddle Club will beautify the area around the historic UMM Saddle Club Barn. The project will include replacing broken concrete with agri-lime, planting trees and shrubs, putting low-voltage lighting, and installing new concrete hitching posts. The Saddle Club will work closely with the UMM grounds crew.

University of Minnesota Morris Chemistry Club**University of Minnesota Morris Biology Club****UMM West Grounds Sustainable Picnic Area and Celebration**

Working in close collaboration, the UMM Chemistry and Biology Clubs will build a sustainability-minded picnic area on the UMM grounds. The Bio Club will install picnic tables made from recycled materials as well as trash and recycling containers. The Chemistry Club will install four solar ovens to be used in place of traditional charcoal burning barbeques. To cap off the project, the two groups will co-host a campus picnic promoting the use of the area and celebrating its completion.

For more information on Beautiful U Day, visit [Beautiful U Day](#).

Photo: Last year a Beautiful U Day grant funded maroon and gold banners which are hung throughout campus to welcome visitors.

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.