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**UMM at first-ever Northland Bioneers Conference**

*Summary: UMM will be a partner, sponsor and exhibitor and interactive workshop presenter at the first annual Northland Bioneers Conference October 20-22 on the Minneapolis Community & Technical College campus. The “earth-honoring conference” is hosted by Northland Sustainable Solutions.*

(October 13, 2006)-UMM will be a partner, sponsor and exhibitor and interactive workshop presenter at the first annual Northland Bioneers Conference October 20-22 on the Minneapolis Community & Technical College campus. The “earth-honoring conference” is hosted by Northland Sustainable Solutions.

UMM Sustainability Coordinator Troy Goodnough said, “If we are going to provide new solutions to the varied problems humanity encounters, we need opportunities like this to share ideas and stories, challenge assumptions and collaborate together to find roads forward. The faculty, staff and students at UMM have great stories to share.”

The Bioneers Conference is expected to bring together more than 750 sustainably minded people and organizations from the surrounding five-state region to “celebrate our ties to the natural world and engage in forum to share solutions and strategies to develop and restore the earth.”

The Conference will present an interactive forum focused on improving and sustaining our environment. Polar explorer and internationally recognized leader Ann Bancroft will be the conference emcee. Local keynote presenters include Horst M. Rechelbacher, founder of Aveda Corporation and Intelligent Nutrients, and Dr. David Wallinga, director of the Antibiotic Resistance Project at the Minneapolis-based institute for Agriculture and Trade Policy (IATP), among others.

The Conference will include interactive workshops with local experts, exhibits, art and entertainment. In addition, a portion of the program each day will feature a satellite broadcast of 15 plenary sessions from the national Bioneers Conference, held in San Rafael, Calif. For 17 years, Bioneers has been headlining the world’s leading thinkers on planetary and public health.

UMM Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs Sandy Olson-Loy will be an on-site interactive workshop presenter at the Conference. She will present “Making Healthy, Fresh and Sustainable Food Choices” Friday, Oct. 20, from 10-10:55 a.m. Goodnough will facilitate a workshop, titled “Power for the Prairie Renewable Energy Development at UMM” Friday, Oct. 20, from 11:05 a.m.-noon.

Olson-Loy shared, "We're excited to have members of the UMM community connecting with and learning from state, regional and national leaders in sustainability work. And we're excited to share the story of our progress and our vision for UMM as a green campus."

The Northland Bioneers Conference is sponsored by many organizations, including UMM, that practice sustainability. The event is designed for anyone committed to solving environmental and social problems through a reciprocal partnership with nature. Day and full conference registration will be available in advance and on site.

To learn more about the conference, visit <http://www.nbconference.org/> or click [here](#) to view a PDF file about the conference.

The University of Minnesota, Morris, a nationally ranked public liberal arts college, has developed sustainable, environmentally friendly initiatives that touch nearly all aspects of campus life including power, food, water, transportation, waste stream infrastructure, academic study, and quality of life. To find out more about UMM's green campus, visit [greencampus](#) .

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.