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UMM receives 2005 Green Power Leadership Award

Summary:

(September 27, 2005)-The University of Minnesota, Morris has received a 2005 Green Power Leadership Award for on-site generation. The award will be presented during the Tenth National Green Power Marketing Conference to be held October 24-26 in Austin, Texas.

"While the competition was impressive, only the best nominations made it to the top," said Pam Bloch Mendelson, In Town Consulting for U.S. Department of Energy Central Regional Office.

"The campus community is excited to learn that we are a Green Power Award winner for on-site generation," said Lowell Rasmussen, associate vice chancellor for physical plant and planning at UMM. "Our students are concerned leaders and creative thinkers in the area of renewable energy for the campus. We're also very fortunate to collaborate in our renewable energy efforts with the University of Minnesota's West Central Research and Outreach Center in Morris."

In March 2005, the first large-scale wind turbine at an American public university began generating power. Located 1.5 miles east of the University of Minnesota, Morris (UMM) campus near the West Central Research and Outreach Center (WCROC), the turbine provides approximately 60 percent of the campus' energy needs. Minnesota Governor Tim Pawlenty attended the dedication ceremony on April 22, generating significant media coverage around the state. In addition to on-site generation, the University also purchases wind energy from Otter Tail Power Company's Tailwinds Program to power the UMM Student Center. Students helped enable the wind power purchase by participating in an energy conservation program to reduce the campus' electricity, water and waste needs.

In 2006, UMM and the WCROC plan to construct a biomass gasification heating plant capable of producing sufficient heat for 80 percent of the school's campus. In addition, UMM faculty are integrating green energy research into the classroom and academic environment. These on-going initiatives will allow for research and advancement in the areas of biomass consumption and efficiency while creating green power development models for rural communities. The University of Minnesota, Morris has shown admirable leadership by installing on-site wind energy and involving their academic and broader community in renewable energy.

The Fifth Annual Green Awards presentation will occur on the first evening of the conference. Organized by the U.S. Department of Energy, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, and the Center for Resource Solutions, both this conference and the National Awards are the ultimate green power marketing conference and competitive national recognition for the market-based deployment of renewable energy technologies.

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.