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"Spin a good yarn" during Storytelling Workshop

Summary:

(June 3, 2005)-Ever wanted to learn how to tell your own story or compete in a storytelling contest? A free Storytelling Workshop is set for Tuesday, June 14, at the University of Minnesota, Morris. The workshop begins promptly at 6:30 p.m., and is immediately followed by "The Long Arm of the Small Town" Storytelling Contest at 7 p.m. Both the workshop and contest are free and open to the public and will be held in the Black Box Theatre of Humanities Fine Arts on the Morris campus.

The title of the event originates from "The Long Arm of the Small Town," an essay by Nobel Prize-winning novelist and Sauk Centre native, Sinclair Lewis.

The contest's goal is to celebrate, through storytelling, the connections between rural and urban people and communities. Story ideas can include, but are not limited to the following:

- Memorable characters from your hometown
- Sense of place – the impact of rural places on making us who we are
- An unforgettable event – public or private
- Your friends, neighbors and family

Stories need to be 7-10 minutes long. There is a \$15 fee to participate in the contest.

This Morris event is one of three regional semi-final rounds in Greater Minnesota and one metro semi-final. Contest prizes include:

- Each semi-final winner receives \$50, a plaque and an opportunity to participate in finals at the Minnesota Rural Summit which will be held at St. John's University in Collegeville, Minn., July 28, 2005
- Winner of the final round will receive a trophy and a check for \$563.21 (56321 is the zip code for Collegeville, the site of the Summit)

To learn more and register for the contest go on line: www.minnesotaruralpartners.org/2005_summit/story.htm or call the Center for Small Towns at UMM, 320-589-6451. Walk-in registrations at the contest are welcome if time permits.

These events are sponsored by the organizers of 2005 MN Rural Summit (www.minnesotaruralpartners.org) and the Center for Small Towns at UMM (www.centerforsmalltowns.org). This program is also supported with encouragement and funding from the University of Minnesota Osher Lifelong Learning Institute, College of Continuing Education, and the Bernard Osher Foundation.

Through personal and academic discovery, the University of Minnesota, Morris provides opportunities for students to grow

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