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Mission of MSP, by any other name, remains the same

Summary:

(November 10, 2004)-The Minority Student Program at the University of Minnesota, Morris has changed its name to the Multi-Ethnic Student Program (MSP). While the name may be new, the mission of the program stays the same. This change more accurately reflects the work of the program which focuses on racial/ethnic identity development, recruitment and retention of U.S. students of color, community development, cultural enrichment, academic outreach, and advocacy.

The following campus groups have endorsed the name change: students of color, the MSP staff, and campus administrators. In addition, the Minority Experience Committee on the Morris campus, a group responsible for promoting campus-wide understanding of racial and ethnic minorities and for enhancing their educational opportunities, was consulted about the new efforts to move MSP forward.

"If we are truly committed to diversity, why do we continue using such outdated and oppressive language?" wondered MSP director Aida Martinez. With that simple question came an even greater effort to bring about the name change. For example, as we enter the 21st century, explained Martinez, the word "minority," referring to people of color, is being used less frequently nationwide. "In reality, we are not the minority anymore in this country."

This is just the beginning of a transformation, not only for the program but for UMM as an institution. For example, Martinez would like to see more services and programs on campus for gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender students. "There is plenty of exciting work ahead of us."

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.