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10-21-2003

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University Relations, "Wilma Mankiller to speak at UMM during Native American Heritage Month" (2003).
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Wilma Mankiller to speak at UMM during Native American Heritage Month

Summary:

(October 21, 2003)-The Circle of Nations Indian Association (CNIA) at the University of Minnesota, Morris is pleased to present author and activist Wilma Mankiller. Mankiller will give a public presentation at 7 p.m., Wednesday, Nov. 5, in Edson Auditorium on the UMM campus. This event is free.

Mankiller, a former principal chief of the Cherokee Nation, will present "Every Day is a Good Day," a discussion on the resilience and tenacity of Native people, particularly women. Mankiller, this year's Native American Heritage Month Keynote Speaker, will have books available for sale, as well as a book signing immediately following her lecture.

Mankiller lives on the land that was allotted to her paternal grandfather, John Mankiller, just after Oklahoma became a state in 1907. Surrounded by the Cherokee Hills and the Cookson Hills, she lives in a historically rich area where a person's worth is not determined by the size of their bank account or portfolio. Her family name "Mankiller" as far as can be determined, is an old military title that was given to the person in charge of protecting the village. As the leader of the Cherokee people she represented the second largest tribe in the United States, the largest being the Dine (Navajo) Tribe.

Mankiller was the first female in modern history to lead a major Native American tribe. With an enrolled population of over 140,000, and an annual budget of more than \$75 million, and more than 1,200 employees spread over 7,000 square miles, her task may have been equalled to that of a chief executive officer of a major corporation.

Also as a part of Native American Heritage Month, there will be Story Time at the Morris Public Library at 10:30 a.m., Saturday, Nov. 1. CNIA members will read a selection of Native American children's stories, followed by an arts and crafts session.

CNIA is designed to promote American Indian participation at all levels of campus life. CNIA members strive to inform the campus and community of the American Indian cultures and to counter all misrepresentations of American Indians and their cultures.

For more information, contact CNIA adviser Mike Miller at (320) 589-6094.

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