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Getty Grant Program awards \$180,000 to UMM for Historic District preservation plan

Summary:

(July 21, 2003)-The Getty Grant Program has awarded \$180,000 to the University of Minnesota, Morris for the development of a preservation plan for the West Central School of Agriculture and Experiment Station Historic District (WCSA). The district is located at the heart of the UMM campus.

One of the most intact examples of a residential agriculture high school still standing in the U.S., the WCSA was entered on the National Register of Historic Places in January 2003. The historic district nomination brings with it a challenge to preserve, and, when possible, rehabilitate the historic landscapes and buildings within the district.

“We are very pleased by this generous grant,” said UMM Chancellor Sam Schuman. “It is both a recognition of the importance of the University of Minnesota, Morris/West Central School of Agriculture campus and a means for helping us preserve and enhance this important historical district.”

The 18-month project will be conducted by a team of historic preservation planners, architects, landscape architects, education professionals, students, UMM building and grounds staff, and UMM administration.

Lowell Rasmussen, associate vice chancellor for physical plant and master planning, assembled a team that included Gemini Research, the historic research consulting firm owned by Susan Granger '80 and Scott Kelly '78, and Dennis Gimmestad '73 of the Minnesota Historical Society. The team was successful in their efforts to secure the Getty Campus Heritage program funding in order to complete research on the historic buildings and grounds, create a historic preservation plan, and establish ongoing educational opportunities related to the historic campus.

While the plan will not change any of the campus' landscapes or buildings, it will create a written preservation reference encompassing the historic district. The plan will help UMM to better understand the original design intent of landscapes and buildings and the changes that have occurred through time, and to formulate practical strategies for preservation. It will set the course for future day to day and long-term activities associated with the District.

An educational advisory group will be assembled to assist in the development of educational activities to utilize the campus and the historic district as a laboratory and gallery for a wide range of training and educational activities. The educational activities will help UMM students, staff, faculty and the public to understand the significance of the campus' historic resources, the changes they have undergone and the challenges they face.

The Getty Grant Program has awarded grants to support the architectural preservation needs of historic buildings, sites and landscapes on college and university campuses across the U.S. as part of its Campus Heritage Preservation Initiative. The initiative provides funds for activities that help colleges and universities identify, assess and plan for the preservation of their significant historic resources.

The University of Minnesota, Morris has consistently been recognized for its outstanding faculty and staff, dedicated students, innovative programs and its strong commitment to providing a well-rounded education through the liberal arts.

UMM is ranked among the top three national public liberal arts colleges by U.S. News & World Report. It is one of only five public liberal arts colleges included in the magazine's list of the best liberal arts colleges nationwide.

UMM's mission as an affordable, undergraduate college complements its small, residential atmosphere. Due to its instructional excellence, commitment to collaborative research, many extracurricular programs and services, and a strong sense of community, the Commission on Institutions of Higher Education of the North Central Association of Colleges and Schools declare UMM a "model liberal arts college."

[The Getty Grant Program is part of the J. Paul Getty Trust, an international cultural and philanthropic institution devoted to the visual arts located at the Getty Center in Los Angeles. Since its inception in 1984, the Grant Program has supported over 3,000 projects in more than 150 countries. The Getty Trust also includes the J. Paul Getty Museum, the Getty Research Institute, and the Getty Conservation Institute. Further information is available from the Getty Grant Program, 1200 Getty Center Drive, Suite 800, Los Angeles, California 90049, 310-440-7320, or www.getty.edu.]

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.