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**Will Steger to visit UMM**

*Summary: Global warming and Minnesota's energy future will be the focus of a slide presentation at UMM by Arctic explorer Will Steger. The presentation will include first-hand accounts of climate change at the poles.*

(February 21, 2006)-Arctic Transect Expedition leader, team member, educator, polar explorer, photographer, writer and lecturer, Will Steger has "become a voice calling for understanding and the preservation of the Arctic." Steger will give a presentation on global warming and Minnesota's energy future at 7 p.m. Monday, Feb. 27, in the Science Auditorium (room 2950) at the University of Minnesota, Morris. The presentation will include first-hand accounts of climate change at the poles. J. Drake Hamilton, science policy director for Minnesotans for an Energy-Efficient Economy (ME3) will join Steger to discuss current facts on global warming and the impact on Minnesota.

UMM sophomore Halley Molstad, the event's organizing intern, said, "It's hard in Minnesota to see clearly the effects of global warming. It will be more effective to see the actual effects through these presentations."

Steger has led the most significant feats in dog-sled exploration such as the first confirmed dog-sled journey to the North Pole without re-supply (1986), the 1,600-mile south-north traverse of Greenland, the longest unsupported dog-sled expedition in history (1988), the historic 3,471-mile International Trans-Antarctica Expedition, the first dog-sled traverse of Antarctica (1989-90), the International Arctic Project, and the first and only dog-sled traverse of the Arctic Ocean from Russia to Ellesmere Island in Canada (1995). Historic feats for which Steger has received numerous honors and recognitions among others include: Explorers Club Finne Ronne Memorial Award (1997), National Geographic Society's First Explorer-In-Residence (1996) and National Geographic Society's John Oliver La Gorce Medal for "accomplishments in geographic exploration, in the sciences, and for public service to advance international understanding" (1995). He joins Amelia Earhart, Robert Peary, Roald Amundsen and Jacques Cousteau in receiving this prestigious award.

Steger has been invited twice to testify before Congress on polar and environmental issues. He founded the Global Center of Environmental Education at Hamline University in 1991 and the World School for Adventure Learning at the University of St. Thomas in 1993. Steger is the author of four books: *Over the Top of the World*, *Crossing Antarctica*, *North to the Pole* and *Saving the Earth*.

This presentation, free and open to the public, is co-sponsored by the North Star Chapter of the Sierra Club, MPIRG (Minnesota Public Interest Research Group) at UMM, and Minnesotans for an Energy-Efficient Economy (ME3).

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