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Rasmussen Received Inaugural James Farrell Re(Cognition) Award

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

[Rasmussen Received Inaugural James Farrell Re\(Cognition\) Award](#)

Summary: The award honors individuals who have made outstanding contributions towards advancing sustainability efforts in the Upper Midwest.

MORRIS, Minnesota (August 18, 2015)—University of Minnesota, Morris Vice Chancellor Emeritus for Finance and Facilities Lowell Rasmussen received the inaugural James Farrell Re(Cognition) Award at the 2015 Upper Midwest Association for Campus Sustainability (UMACS) biennial conference. The award honors individuals who have made outstanding contributions towards advancing sustainability efforts in the Upper Midwest.

Rasmussen was presented the award to an ovation of more than 100 conference participants. He received a specially commissioned mug created by well-known regional potter and Morris faculty member Kevin Flicker. Rasmussen's many accomplishments and “model of perseverance” were the subjects of the awards presentation.

“I am very proud to be a Morris alum and have enjoyed watching the campus transform into a national sustainability leader,” said Erika Bailey-Johnson '99, sustainability director at Bemidji State University and lead conference organizer. “It takes a village, and it also takes leaders with a vision. Lowell was one of those leaders—able to coordinate his work with student learning.”

The Morris campus has biomass, solar, and wind energy-production facilities as well as conservation and waste reduction initiatives—all part of its overall strategy to reduce its carbon footprint. Campus progress in renewable energy is nationally recognized, in large part, as a result of Rasmussen’s tireless efforts.

“A humble man, he would never claim credit alone for the wind turbines on the hill, the biomass gasifier, for the solar PV and thermal systems on-campus, and for the conservation and recycling and composting efforts that are hallmarks of Morris,” reads the award language. “These elements represent the hard work and vision of many people to be sure, but there is no question that Lowell played a leading role in their evolution.”

“I am honored and very appreciative of being selected for the first James Farrell award,” said Rasmussen. “Considering the award comes from the most progressive and focused group of sustainability leaders in the Midwest, I can’t think of a better way to mark my retirement from University of Minnesota, Morris.”

The James Farrell Re(Cognition) Award was named in recognition of James Farrell, a Saint Olaf professor of history, American studies, and environmental studies. Farrell was a mentor to many sustainability-minded professionals, students, and faculty members in the region. He inspired others to think more deeply about their connections to the environment and each other.

About UMACS

UMACS works to encourage the sharing of information and resources on campus sustainability through a variety of means, including a biennial conference, regular meetings, a website, and moderated email discussion lists. For more information, visit umacs.org.

[View this story electronically.](#)

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.

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