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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Morris Named a Top Performer in 2015 Sustainable Campus Index

MORRIS, Minnesota (October 26, 2015)—The University of Minnesota, Morris has been recognized as a sustainability leader in the 2015 Sustainable Campus Index, achieving placement in the categories of campus engagement, coordination and planning, and buildings. The 2015 Sustainable Campus Index highlights top-performing colleges and universities in 17 areas, as measured by the Sustainability Tracking, Assessment & Rating System (STARS).

The Campus Engagement subcategory, in which Morris earned top placement, recognizes institutions that provide students with sustainability learning experiences outside the formal curriculum and support employees in sustainability. The Coordination and Planning subcategory, in which Morris was one of many top performers, recognizes institutions that are dedicating resources to sustainability coordination, developing plans to move toward sustainability, and engaging the campus community in governance. The Buildings category, in which Morris's Green Prairie Community earned second place, recognizes institutions that are improving the sustainability performance of new and existing buildings.

"Morris's participation in STARS and strong performance in the areas of campus engagement, coordination and planning, and buildings demonstrates significant leadership and commitment to advancing sustainability," said AASHE's Executive Director Meghan Fay Zahniser. "We are pleased to recognize Morris for working to secure a brighter future by incorporating sustainability into campus operations, academics, administration, and engagement."

This achievement is only the most recent instance of Morris's recognition by AASHE. The campus registered as a charter participant in the STARS program in 2010 and achieved initial STARS gold certification in 2012. In 2013 Morris students received the AASHE Student Sustainability Leadership Award. Chancellor Jacqueline R. Johnson served as AASHE board chair for 2014, and the campus received [STARS Gold 2.0 Rating](#) earlier this year. Morris's STARS report is available at stars.aashe.org.

About STARS

The Sustainability Tracking, Assessment & Rating System (STARS) is a transparent, self-reporting framework for colleges and universities to measure their sustainability performance. STARS was developed by AASHE with broad participation from the higher education community. The credits included in STARS span the breadth of higher education sustainability and are organized into four categories: Academics, Engagement, Operations, and Planning & Administration. All reports are publicly accessible on the STARS website. For more information, visit stars.aashe.org.

About the Association for the Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Education (AASHE)

AASHE empowers higher education faculty, staff and students to be effective change agents and drivers of sustainability innovation. AASHE enables members to translate information into action by offering essential resources and professional development to a diverse, engaged community of sustainability leaders. We work with and for higher education to ensure that our world's future leaders are motivated and equipped to solve sustainability challenges. For more information, visit aashe.org.

About Morris

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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