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Community Engagement Marks Completion of Mural Service-Learning Project

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[Community Engagement Marks Completion of Mural Service-Learning Project](#)

Summary: To celebrate, the office will host a reception on Saturday, November 14.

MORRIS, Minnesota (November 9, 2015)—The University of Minnesota, Morris Office of Community Engagement (OCE) announces the completion of one of its largest service-learning projects to-date: the new Pomme de Terre Food Co-op mural. To celebrate, OCE will host a reception on Saturday, November 14, from 4–6 p.m. at Pomme de Terre Foods (511 Oregon Avenue, Morris, MN 56267).

The mural was designed by Michael Eble, associate professor of studio art. Fourteen first-year students in his Mural Painting and Public Art course learned about the role of public art in society while contributing to the piece. ACE Hardware helped make the project possible by providing a significant discount on paint.

“This was truly a collaborative project,” says Argie Manolis, coordinator of OCE. “Michael worked with the Pomme de Terre Food Co-op board to design the mural, students who participated in the Fall Day of Service got part of the background painted, and Michael’s students worked on the mural itself. It allowed first-year students to get involved in the community in a hands-on way and to learn about our local food system and the power of art.”

“We’re thrilled with the new mural,” says Arne Kildegaard of the food co-op board. “It adds a beautiful element of color and design both to our building and to the public square we’re adjacent to. The theme of the mural draws attention very tastefully to the fresh, local produce available inside the store and also at the Farmer’s Market. The fact that this was a community project that got a bunch of students involved makes it that much more fun, too.”

Reception guests will have the opportunity to discuss the mural with its creators. Refreshments will be served. For more information, contact the Office of Community Engagement at 320-589-6276 or engagmnt@morris.umn.edu.

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