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New UMN Morris Students Give Back in Day of Service

Author: Trina Vue

Students in the University of Minnesota Morris Gateway and STELLAR programs will take part in a Day of Service on Friday, August 10. These first-year students will have a chance to get involved in and to serve the Morris community.

“Students in the programs are learning about the strengths and history of Morris as well as local food systems and the local prairie ecosystem,” says Argie Manolis, community engagement coordinator.

Using this newfound information, students will design a concept for a community mural that celebrates Morris. The mural will be sketched by students and local artists this fall and will be painted the following year. The community is invited to give feedback on the concept at the Stevens County Fair.

Gateway and STELLAR students will work with the Salvation Army to gather new school supplies, providing area K–12 students the tools they need to succeed. Supplies needed include: sturdy backpacks, pens, pencils, erasers, highlighters, calculators, facial tissue, notebooks, folders, index cards, and nonperishable healthy snacks. Donors may choose to write checks to the Salvation Army with “school supply drive” in the subject line, or to donate cash; these funds will be used to purchase additional supplies.

Donation locations include:

- Meadowland Market
- Salvation Army Thrift Store
- Willie’s Supervalu
- Shopko
- Stevens County Fair booth

Additional projects include a U.S. Fish and Wildlife seed harvest, where students will learn how to preserve the prairie habitat. Students also will prepare food from local farmers to be donated to food shelves around the area as well as to students on campus.

To learn more, contact the Office of Community Engagement at engagmnt@morris.umn.edu.

Schedule of Events

Thursday, August 9

- 6–8 p.m. | Community Feedback, Stevens County Fair

Friday, August 10

- 1–3 p.m. | Community Feedback, Stevens County Fair
- 1–5 p.m. | Collect supplies and donations, Meadowland Market, Salvation Army Thrift Store, Willie’s Supervalu, Shopko, Stevens County Fair