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Summary: The role higher education institutions can play in leading efforts towards environmental responsibility will be discussed during the University of Minnesota Institute on the Environment’s first Environment Roundtable.

(September 26, 2007)-The role higher education institutions can play in leading efforts towards environmental responsibility will be discussed during the University of Minnesota Institute on the Environment’s first Environment Roundtable, “Saving the Planet… One Campus at a Time: Pathways to Environmental Sustainability.” The event is free and open to the public and will be held at 11:45 a.m. Monday, Oct. 1, in room 105 of the Cargill Building for Microbial and Plant Genomics, 1500 Gortner Ave., St. Paul.

Featured speakers will be Jacqueline Johnson, chancellor of the University of Minnesota Morris, whose school already generates more than half of its campus electricity from wind power, and Thomas Fisher, dean of the College of Design. Professor Deborah Swackhamer, interim director of the Institute on the Environment, will moderate the program.

Speakers will discuss what academia should do to promote campus sustainability around the country and what challenges educators and administrators face along the way. Audience members will then be allowed to join the conversation and share ideas.

“The Institute on the Environment is holding these Roundtables to bring the university’s environmental community together to hear top experts discuss current environmental issues,” said Swackhamer. “The issue of campus sustainability affects each of us at the U and is being debated around the country. We chose a discussion format rather than a seminar to encourage as much interaction as possible, and we hope these forums will be a place to learn, ask questions and offer opinions and ideas.”

Guests are welcome to bring their own lunch but refreshments and light snacks will be provided. The event is also available online through UMConnect at UMConnect.

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.