

News Release

UMC Led Tour of Soudan Underground Laboratory Gives High School Physics Students Inside Look at Study of Dark Matter on April 18

By Krista Lemos on Thursday, April 13, 2006

CROOKSTON, MN (April 13, 2006) – Nearly 40 area high school physics students will get an up-close look at the Soudan Underground Laboratory April 18 as part of an outreach program through the University of Minnesota, Crookston (UMC).

Students will explore the world-class research facility, which is today's leading deep underground science and engineering laboratory in the United States. The group will participate in hands-on projects during the field trip, interact with staff on site and learn the techniques scientists are using there to answer basic questions about the universe.

Sponsored by UMC's Math, Science, and Technology Department, the event is part of the University's College in the High School (CIHS) program, where students earn college credit for course work. It is just one of the many ways that UMC collaborates with area schools to increase opportunities for applied learning and promote resources throughout the state.

"Exposing students to real-life research environments enhances their classroom learning and stimulates discussion," says UMC Associate Professor David DeMuth, who serves as the department head in the Math, Science, and Technology Dept. "By collaborating with local schools to provide opportunities for area students to visit places like the Soudan Underground Laboratory, we are expanding their perspectives and career options."

Students will leave from UMC at 7:15 a.m. on Tue., April 18 for the five-hour bus trip to the laboratory located at the Soudan Underground Mine State Park in northeastern Minnesota. UMC students, faculty and staff are leading the expedition. Area high schools participating in the tour and field trip include the Tri-County Schools of Karlstad, Warroad and Stephen-Argyle in Minnesota and Larimore in North Dakota.

The UMC tour was organized as part of the 2005 World Year of Physics worldwide celebration which calls attention to the importance of physics in our everyday lives. The celebration marks the 100th anniversary of Albert Einstein's "miraculous year" in which he published three important papers describing ideas that have since influenced all of modern physics.

For more information on the tour, contact DeMuth at 218-281-8259 (demuth@umn.edu). To learn more about the Soudan Underground Laboratory visit www.soudan.umn.edu.

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