

News Release

UMC to Host Sustainability Conference

By Krista Lemos on Saturday, October 8, 2005

A conference at the University of Minnesota Crookston (UMC) will take a global look at the interdependencies of our ecological, economic, and social imperatives and focus on what we do, tomorrow, to act as though we planned to stay. The conferences will feature overview presentations and case studies of how various college campuses have implemented principles of sustainability. The Sustainable Development Conference will take place on Monday and Tuesday, October 24 & 25 in the new student center on the UMC campus.

"As chancellor of UMC, I would like to invite the citizens of the region to participate in the dialogue and interact with internationally-recognized leaders on sustainability issues during our October 24 and 25 conference. We are proud to present this conference, which centers on UMC as a place where ideas are raised that may result in new innovations. This is one of the ways that UMC can add value to the region," said Dr. Charles Casey.

Opening remarks on Monday, October 24 by UMC's Chancellor, Charles H. Casey are followed by sessions including: "The University of Minnesota's Commitment to Sustainability" by Charles Muscoplat, vice president for agricultural policy & dean in the College of Agriculture, Food and Environmental Sciences; "Changing times. Demographics, Social Priorities, Consumption Patterns, Technology, and the Limits to Growth" by Jerry Nagel, president of Northern Great Plains of Fargo, ND; "Consumption and the Sustainability Equation" by Jim Bowyer of the University of Minnesota; and "The International Institute for Sustainable Development: The Growth & Development of a Sustainable Development Research Institution" by Bill Glanville, vice president and chief operating officer, Winnipeg, MB.

Other presentations on Monday include "Applications of Sustainability in Resource Management in Canada" by Leslie King and Rick Baydack, dean and associate dean, respectively, Faculty of Environment at the University of Manitoba in Winnipeg, MB; "Ecological and Economic Constraints to the Sustainability of Agriculture" by Steven Polasky Fesler-Lampert, professor of Ecological/Environment Economics at the University of Minnesota; and the final presentation of the day, "Intensive Agricultural Systems Devoid of Ecosystem Services: A Developing Global Disaster" by Don Wyse, from the Department of Agronomy and Plant Genetics, University of Minnesota.

The evening events include a banquet during which Robert Bergland, Regent Emeritus and Former U.S. Secretary of Agriculture will be honored. The speaker for the evening banquet will be Fred Kirschenmann, director of the Aldo Leopold Center for Sustainable Agriculture from Iowa State University in Ames. John Ostrem of the Northwest Minnesota Foundation will serve as emcee.

Tuesday morning sessions begin at 8:00 a.m. with "Ethical Considerations of Sustainability" by Daniel Wolpert, Minister, Crookston, "Building - As Though We Plan

to Stay!" by John Carmody director of the Center for Sustainable Building Research at the University of Minnesota; "College Campuses as Engines of Sustainability: Establishing UMACS as a New Regional Campus Network" by Derek Larson, chair of the Upper Midwest Association for Campus Sustainability at St. John's University in Collegeville, MN; "A Local Look at Sustainability - The Twin Cities Campus of the University of Minnesota as Experimental Vessel" by Jim Perry of University of Minnesota; "The U of Minnesota's Presidential Initiative on the Environment and Renewable Energy (PIERE) and the Bush Initiative on Sustainability" by Laureen Ross-McCalib, coordinator of PIERE and Kris Johnson, coordinator of Ecosystem Science and Sustainability Initiative from the University of Minnesota; and "Economic, Environmental, and Social Connections in Northwest Minnesota" by Ken Meter Crossroads Resource Center in Minneapolis.

You may register for the conference online or by calling Jennifer at 218-281-8681. The conference is sponsored by the University of Minnesota Crookston; Northwest Research and Outreach Center; Northwest Regional Sustainable Development Partnership; Northwest Minnesota Foundation; Minnesota Extension Service and others.

If you have questions regarding the conference, contact Brent Sorenson at UMC by calling 218-281-8138.

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