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Minneapolis Community & Technical College President Phillip Davis Commits to 'Climate Neutral' Campus

MCTC Joins Growing List of Higher Education Leaders to Fight Global Warming

Minneapolis – On December 13, Minneapolis Community & Technical College (MCTC) President Phillip Davis committed to sharply reducing and eventually eliminating all of the College's global warming emissions. The pledge came with President Davis's signing of the American College & University Presidents Climate Commitment, joining the leaders of over 450 other institutions across the country.

"Committing to a 'climate neutral' campus is a natural extension of MCTC's mission, which includes preparing students to be globally aware and engaged citizens," states President Davis. "If we educate our students how to live in a more energy efficient way, they can share this information with their families and employers, and it can spur education and activism throughout the community."

Within the next two months, MCTC will form a climate committee to guide the development and implementation of the plan. Within the next year, the College will complete a comprehensive inventory of all greenhouse gas emissions and within two years, an action plan will be developed to make MCTC climate neutral.

Other short-term and long term projects that have already been initiated on campus include:

- Upgraded outdated chiller/boiler with high efficiently equipment and state of the art energy management system
- Implemented a discounted bus/rail pass for students with a college subsidy to encourage public transportation, More than 1,400 students participated Fall Term, 2007
- A baseline study of the amount of trash generated per month has been completed and an improved recycling program will be implemented soon.
- Student clubs will take a leadership role to promote the improved recycling program at MCTC.
- A web site newsletter on green initiatives will be established as an educational tool for students, faculty and staff
- New green purchasing guidelines will be explored
- In collaboration with students, faculty and community organizations, the college will explore a rain garden on MCTC property during 2008.
- A baseline emissions inventory will be completed n 2008. A summary report will be prepared with the results and an explanation of the findings.
- The instructional unit will investigate additional program majors in the areas of environmental technology
- The college strives to meet or exceed LEED Silver in all our construction projects.
- The college is exploring opportunities to build a green house on our campus for instructional program learning.
- The instructional unit will look at ways to integrate sustainability into selected aspects of program curriculum.

The Presidents Climate Commitment is the first such effort by any major sector of society to set climate neutrality – not just a reduction – as its target. This undertaking by America’s colleges and universities is inspired by efforts like the U.S. Mayors Climate

Protection Agreement, the U.S. Climate Action Partnership and other collective efforts by states and businesses.

"Colleges and universities must lead the effort to reverse global warming for the health and well-being of current and future generations," said Michael Crow, President of Arizona State University and a founding member of the ACUPCC Leadership Circle. "On behalf of all the signatories, I welcome President Davis to the commitment, we are honored and pleased to have him join us."

The American College & University Presidents Climate Commitment is a high-visibility effort to address global warming by garnering institutional commitments to neutralize greenhouse gas emissions, and to accelerate the research and educational efforts of higher education to equip society to re-stabilize the earth's climate. Under the guidance and direction of the Leadership Circle of presidents, the American College & University Presidents Climate Commitment is being supported and implemented by the Association for the Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Education (AASHE), Second Nature, and ecoAmerica.

The following Minnesota colleges and universities have signed the pledge: Augsburg College, Carleton College, Century College, College of Saint Benedict, Dakota County Technical College, Gustavus Adolphus College, Macalester College, Minneapolis Community and Technical College, Rochester Community and Technical College, Saint John's University, University of Minnesota Morris, University of Minnesota Twin Cities, and Winona State University.

Learn more at: www.presidentsclimatecommitment.org or visit MCTC's website at www.minneapolis.edu.

About MCTC:

MCTC is the most ethnically diverse college in Minnesota. A member of the Minnesota State Colleges and Universities System, MCTC offers students a comprehensive liberal arts curriculum and more than 60 career and occupational programs designed to prepare people for good jobs in high demand professions. Located in downtown Minneapolis, MCTC enrolls more than 11,000 students annually and is an active partner in initiatives to strengthen the social, economic and cultural vitality of the Twin Cities metropolitan area.

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