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## **GRAINGER PARTNERS WITH MINNEAPOLIS COMMUNITY AND TECHNICAL COLLEGE FOR SKILLED LABOR**

***Grainger's Tools for Tomorrow<sup>SM</sup> scholarship program helps support future leaders within the industrial trades***

**Minneapolis, MN (December 9, 2008)** – With baby boomers preparing to retire from the ranks of the skilled work force in Minneapolis and across the nation, a growing number of labor experts are raising concerns that there is a shortage of workers with the critical skills required to replace them. Recognizing the emerging need, Grainger, a local distributor of facilities maintenance supplies, recently awarded a *Tools for Tomorrow* scholarship to Minneapolis Community and Technical College (MCTC) student Sam Marchiafava during a presentation at the main campus in front of his peers and MCTC leadership. Marchiafava is one of 35 students across the nation who will receive a \$2,000 scholarship and, upon graduation, a Westward® tool package from Grainger to support their future career in the trades.

“Industrial trade students like Sam represent the best and the brightest of the future of skilled labor,” said Jeff Timm, District Branch Sales Manager, Grainger. “Grainger is proud to partner with MCTC through our *Tools for Tomorrow<sup>SM</sup>* scholarship program. Together we can help to ensure that our community continues to have people to meet the demand in the skilled and technical trades.”

Marchiafava, a Circle Pines resident studying Heating, Ventilation Air-Conditioning and Refrigeration (HVAC-R), was nominated by the school’s faculty to receive the award. His instructors describe him as ‘a highly motivated student who shows great potential in the HVAC-R field.’

Before coming to MCTC, Sam studied HVAC-R in high school where he developed his natural talent of working with his hands. His father is a services technician and was a big influence on his decision to study in the field. In high school, Sam also played football for four years where he learned to work with a team to accomplish a common goal. Currently, Sam works at Egan Mechanical as a power washing crew member where he cleans roof top units.

“I am grateful for Grainger’s generous contribution that has helped to further my career in HVAC-R,” said Marchiafava. “This scholarship provides an opportunity for me to focus on my professional goals as a leader in my industry and in my local community.”

“Grainger’s generosity is a shining example of a corporation stepping up and helping students through their *Tools for Tomorrow* scholarship program,” said Reede Webster, Dean of College Advancement and Executive Director of the MCTC Foundation. “In these difficult economic times, scholarship programs like Grainger’s are even more important to our students’ success.”

For more information about Grainger's community involvement and commitment to technical education, visit [www.grainger.com/community](http://www.grainger.com/community). For more information about MCTC, visit [www.minneapolis.edu](http://www.minneapolis.edu).

### **About Grainger**

W.W. Grainger, Inc. (NYSE: GWW), with 2007 sales of \$6.4 billion, is the leading broad line supplier of facilities maintenance products serving businesses and institutions in the United States, Canada, Mexico and China. Through a highly integrated network including more than 600 branches, 18 distribution centers and multiple Web sites, Grainger's employees help customers get the job done.

### **About MCTC**

MCTC is the most ethnically diverse college in Minnesota. A member of the Minnesota State Colleges and Universities System, MCTC offers student 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 12,000 students annually and is an active partner in initiatives to strengthen the social, economic and cultural vitality of the Twin Cities metropolitan area.