



University of Minnesota Morris
2014-2015 Post-Secondary Nominee Presentation Form

ELIGIBILITY CERTIFICATIONS

College or University Certifications

The signature of college or university President (or equivalent) on the next page certifies that each of the statements below concerning the institution’s eligibility and compliance with the following requirements is true and correct to the best of their knowledge.

1. The college or university has been evaluated and selected from among institutions within the Nominating Authority’s jurisdiction, based on high achievement in the three ED-GRS Pillars: 1) reduced environmental impact and costs; 2) improved health and wellness; and 3) effective environmental and sustainability education.
2. The college or university is providing the U.S. Department of Education Office of Civil Rights (OCR) access to information necessary to investigate a civil rights complaint or to conduct a compliance review.
3. OCR has not issued a violation letter of findings to the college or university concluding that the nominated college or university has violated one or more of the civil rights statutes. A violation letter of findings will not be considered outstanding if OCR has accepted a corrective action plan to remedy the violation.
4. The U.S. Department of Justice does not have a pending suit alleging that the college or university has violated one or more of the civil rights statutes or the Constitution’s equal protection clause.
5. There are no findings by Federal Student Aid of violations in respect to the administration of Title IV student aid funds.
6. The college or university is in good standing with its regional or national accreditor.
7. The college or university meets all applicable federal, state, local and tribal health, environmental and safety requirements in law, regulations and policy and is willing to undergo EPA on-site verification.

U.S. Department of Education Green Ribbon Schools 2014-2015

Public 4-Year Public 2-Year Private Non-Profit

Name of President/Chancellor: Dr. Jacqueline R. Johnson
(Specify: Ms., Miss, Mrs., Dr., Mr., etc.) (As it should appear in the official records)

Official College or University Name: University of Minnesota, Morris
(As it should appear on an award)

College or University Street
Mailing Address: 600 East 4th Street, Morris, MN 56267
(If address is P.O. Box, also include street address.)

County: Stevens IPEDS Number*: 174251
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*Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System

I have reviewed the information in this application and certify that to the best of my knowledge all information is accurate.



Date: 01/29/2015

(President's/Chancellor's Signature)

Nominating Authority's Certifications

The signature by the Nominating Authority on this page certifies that each of the statements below concerning the college or university's eligibility and compliance with the following requirements is true and correct to the best of the Authority's knowledge.

1. The college or university has been evaluated and selected from among institutions within the Nominating Authority's jurisdiction, based on high achievement in the three ED-GRS Pillars: 1) reduced environmental impact and costs; 2) improved health and wellness; and 3) effective environmental and sustainability education.
2. The college or university meets all applicable federal, state, local and tribal health, environmental and safety requirements in law, regulations and policy and is willing to undergo EPA on-site verification.

Name of Nominating Agency: Minnesota Department of Education

Name of Nominating Authority: Dr. Brenda Cassellius

(Specify: Ms., Miss, Mrs., Dr., Mr., Other)

I have reviewed the information in this application and certify to the best of my knowledge that the school meets the provisions above.



Date: January 30, 2015

(Nominating Authority's Signature)

SUMMARY AND DOCUMENTATION OF NOMINEE'S ACHIEVEMENTS

Provide a coherent "snapshot" that describes how your college or university is representative of your jurisdiction's highest achieving green school efforts. Summarize your strengths and accomplishments in all three Pillars and nine Elements. Then, include documentation and concrete examples for work in every Pillar and Element.

SUBMISSION

The nomination package, including the signed certifications and documentation of evaluation in the three Pillars should be converted to a PDF file and emailed to green.ribbon.schools@ed.gov according to the instructions in the Nominee Submission Procedure.

OMB Control Number: 1860-0509

Expiration Date: February 28, 2015

Public Burden Statement

According to the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, no persons are required to respond to a collection of information unless such collection displays a valid OMB control number. The valid OMB control number for this information collection is 1860-0509. Public reporting burden for this collection of information is estimated to average 37 hours per response, including time for reviewing instructions, searching existing data sources, gathering and maintaining the data needed, and completing and reviewing the collection of information. The obligation to respond to this collection is required to obtain or retain benefit P.L. 107-110, Sec. 501, Innovative Programs and Parental Choice Provisions. Send comments regarding the burden estimate or any other aspect of this collection of information, including suggestions for reducing this burden, to the U.S. Department of Education, 400 Maryland Ave., SW, Washington, DC 20202-4536 or email ICDocketMgr@ed.gov and reference the OMB Control Number

1860-0509. Note: Please do not return the completed ED-Green Ribbon Schools application to this address.

Summary Narrative

At the University of Minnesota, Morris, it's easy to make the green choice—sustainability is so deeply ingrained in our everyday lives that we don't always think about the scope of its reach. For more than 100 years, our campus has been grounded in a mission of environmental sustainability, and this mission touches all aspects of university life. Both our pivotal successes and everyday victories spring from the ground up and make this place truly extraordinary.

As an undergraduate-focused residential liberal arts community, Morris offers students a personalized education to prepare them for lifelong learning, flexibility in the career world of the future, and global citizenship. As a public university, Morris subscribes to the value of public education for all citizens and promises accountability to the people it serves.

Morris is a national sustainability leader. In 2014, Morris received the prestigious Second Nature - Climate Leadership Award. Morris was the only four-year baccalaureate college in the U.S. to receive the award. Morris is consistently featured in top sustainability rankings including the *Princeton Review* Top 322 Green Schools and Sierra Club Cool Schools.

Morris students, staff, and faculty are national sustainability leaders. In 2013, Morris students led a statewide effort resulted in their earning the Association for the Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Education (AASHE) - Student Leadership Award.

As an example of staff leadership, Morris Chancellor Jacqueline R. Johnson is board chair of AASHE and sits on the board of the American College and University Presidents' Climate Commitment (ACUPCC).

Morris has undertaken significant efforts to reduce environmental impacts and costs. Morris has cut its carbon footprint by 40% between 2005 and 2012 using on-site energy sources and is on a path towards carbon neutrality by 2020. Significantly, Morris also reduced its electricity consumption between 2005 and 2012 by 1 million kWhr.

Two University-owned on-site 1.65 MW wind turbines produce 10 million kWhs of electrical power annually, meeting 60% of the electrical needs for the Morris campus. Significantly, Morris will know the costs for 60% of its on-site-generated, carbon-free electricity, until nearly 2035. By knowing our energy costs a decade from now, we can advocate for reductions in college tuition rate increases.

A 32-unit solar thermal array heats the Regional Fitness Center (RFC) pool, reducing our CO2 emissions by 30,000 pounds each year and two solar photovoltaic systems on campus convert sunlight into electricity and generate more than 30,000 kWh annually.

A biomass gasifier plant on campus uses local, natural resources—from corn cobs to mixed prairie grasses—to heat and cool the campus. The system is expected to displace 70% of the fossil fuel previously used for heating and cooling and will infuse approximately \$500,000 into the local economy yearly.

The Morris recycling and composting program helps reduce waste, save costs, and improve environmental performance. In 2013, we measured a recycling rate of 37%. Because of composting and recycling improvements made over the past two years, we have reduced our waste by 127,000 lbs/year, or 60 tons per year. Each year, the campus composts more than 30 tons of food waste and saves about \$10,000/year in landfill costs. Over the past three years, we have diverted about 80 tons of food waste from the landfill.

Morris has taken huge steps to improve the health and wellness of students, staff, and the local community. Employee participation in health and wellness programs helps reduce insurance premiums for staff and their families. The RFC is a shared campus and community facility, with swimming pools, basketball courts, an indoor track, and exercise equipment. Faculty and staff have the option to participate in a bike commuter program and have biked 10,237 miles, saved 366 gallons of gas, and reduced 7,094 lbs of CO2 in just 2.5 years

Morris is a charter partner of Pride of the Prairie, the longest running local food program in Minnesota higher education. This program has worked to bring more local and healthy food to the communities of west central Minnesota. Morris Dining Services uses 30% locally obtained food. Food from three campus gardens supports many community events and feed thousands of community members and students.

Morris students are doing amazing things on campus and in the community. Morris is home to the Center for Small Towns, which connects students and communities to create sustainable solutions. The Office of Community Engagement connects students to more than 10,000 hours of volunteer service each year.

Environmental stewardship is directly incorporated into our campus mission and vision statement. Morris has both environmental studies and environmental science majors and Morris professors have been recognized for their incorporation of sustainability, environmental, and human systems into their coursework, research and teaching. 78% of Morris academic disciplines report offering at least one

sustainability course. And, 23% of Morris faculty identify as doing sustainability-related research and/or creative activities.

Supporting Documentation

Introduction

The University of Minnesota, Morris (Morris) is a rural, public, undergraduate, residential, liberal arts college on the western edge of the prairie in Minnesota. We are home to over 1,900 students and nearly 400 faculty and staff. The entire city of Morris is home to around 5,000 people, including the campus. The campus has a big impact in the town and in the region. It is home to tremendous natural and human resources. Morris Chancellor Jacqueline Johnson describes Morris as being “in the middle of everywhere” given its unique location. Morris is home to strong prairie winds, abundant sunshine and productive soil.

Morris is a national sustainability leader. **In 2014, Morris received the prestigious *Second Nature - Climate Leadership Award*.** Morris was the only four-year baccalaureate college in the United States to receive the award. It was also the first Minnesota school to receive the award. Morris is consistently featured in top sustainability rankings. In 2014, Morris was featured in the *Princeton Review Top 322 Green Schools* and the *Sierra Club Cool Schools (only three Minnesota schools are on the Sierra list)*.

Morris students, staff and faculty are national sustainability leaders. In 2013, Morris students led a statewide effort resulted in their earning the **Association for the Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Education (AASHE) - Student Leadership Award**. **Again, this was the first time a Minnesota school received the award.** Morris is consistently home to students with prestigious national scholarships. Morris is currently home to a **Truman Fellow, Udall Scholar and two National Wildlife Federation Emerging Leadership Fellows**. Morris has been home to four Truman Scholars and four Udall Scholars.

As examples of staff leadership, **Morris Chancellor Jacqueline Johnson is board chair of AASHE** and sits on the board of the American College and University Presidents' Climate Commitment (ACUPCC). She was also **the first University of Minnesota executive officer to sign the ACUPCC climate neutrality commitment in 2007**. Vice Chancellor of Finance and Facilities, Lowell Rasmussen, has grown sustainability awareness through higher education professional organizations. He currently provides leadership on the National Association of College and University Business Officers (NACUBO) - Sustainability Committee. Morris is deeply engaged with communities in west central Minnesota, helping them to achieve their sustainability aspirations. **In 2015, we earned the prestigious Carnegie classification as a Community Engagement school**. The last time this Carnegie classification was offered (in 2010) only two Minnesota schools earned the status.

Additionally, Morris holds an **AASHE STARS Gold rating**. Morris was **one of the first schools to earn the Gold recognition**. AASHE STARS is the sustainability standard in North American higher education.

Pillar I

Morris has undertaken significant efforts to reduce environmental impacts and costs. **Morris has cut its carbon footprint by 40% between 2005 and 2012 using *on-site energy sources*** and is **on a path towards carbon neutrality by 2020**. The carbon footprint was reduced from 13,272 metric tons of carbon dioxide equivalents (MTCO_{2e}) to 8,126 MTCO_{2e}. Significantly, **Morris also reduced its electricity consumption between 2005 and 2012 by 1 million kWhr**. Morris is one of the few places in the United States where you see, touch, and learn about: wind turbines, biomass gasification, solar photovoltaic systems, solar thermal technology, green buildings, composting and more.

Morris generates over 60% of its annual electricity from two university-owned-and-operated 1.65MW wind turbines. Each of the U of M wind turbines generates 5M kWhrs of carbon-free electricity each year. The campus uses about 8M kWhrs of electricity from all sources each year. Out of the 10M kWhrs of wind-generated electricity each year, Morris uses 5M kWhr and the additional 5M kWhr goes onto the grid and is sold by the local utility as green power. This helps the utility meet their legal requirements under the Minnesota Renewable Portfolio Standard (RPS) of 25% renewable energy by 2025. Clean energy does not compete on a level economic playing field with legacy fossil-fuel energy, which continues to be heavily subsidized. Federal and state policies make clean energy implementation complicated. For example, Morris needs to negotiate a private power purchase agreement with the utility company before it puts any electricity onto the grid. Currently, utilities don't often want to pay the full-system cost of clean power, making the cash-flow of projects difficult, because they don't pay producers the same price they sell the power.

Integrating clean energy systems has reduced Morris's future risk, environmental impacts, and costs. Most people expect that energy prices will rise over time, including electricity.

Significantly, Morris will know the costs for 60% of its on-site-generated, carbon-free electricity, until nearly 2035. The cost of this wind electricity is also cheaper than grid rates. This work has improved Morris's budgeting stability and provides a significant hedge against the risk of future increases in energy costs. It also reduces risks imposed on future Morris energy costs as carbon tax legislation becomes enacted over time.

By knowing our energy costs a decade from now, we can advocate for reductions in college tuition rate increases. Morris exists as part of the University of Minnesota system and tuition is negotiated between the State of Minnesota legislature and University of Minnesota Board of Regents. **Morris has been named one of the 24 Best College Values under \$30,000 per year**

by the editors of Kiplinger's Personal Finance. Morris is also included on Kiplinger's List of 100 Best Values in Public Colleges. Morris ranked 54th among Kiplinger's Best Values in Public Colleges and 115th among all schools on the Kiplinger's Best College Values list. **For the past two years, Morris undergraduate tuition has been held constant with a 0% increase in tuition costs for resident and non-resident students. Morris undergraduate tuition is \$11,720 per year.**

Morris is on the list of **EPA Green Power Partners and is an EPA On-Site Energy Leader.** There are no other four-year Minnesota colleges on all of these EPA lists. Morris is setting the leadership example in clean energy production at colleges in Minnesota and across the United States. The **Morris solar thermal system** generates 280 MBtu of energy each year for the indoor recreational pool at the Regional Fitness Center (RFC), which is used by the campus and community. **Morris has installed 23kW of solar PV systems, which provide more than 30,000 kWhr of carbon-free electricity each year.** In addition to wind and solar, Morris has been a leader in biomass.

The **Morris biomass plant was built to offset 70% of its fossil-fuel usage with locally obtained biomass,** mostly corn cobs and wood chips. The purchase of these feedstocks will help inject more than \$500,000 into the local economy each year during the lifetime of the biomass plant, which is expected to be more than thirty years. Biomass is considered a carbon-neutral fuel, which helps Morris achieve its carbon neutrality goal. Early in the 2000s, a tripling in natural gas prices depleted the campus's reserve budget. Energy budgeting becomes impossible if natural gas price changes of 200% to 300% are possible from year-to-year. **The biomass plant helps to stabilize energy costs.** For the past few years, fracking has lowered natural gas costs. However, biomass is still able to compete well with natural gas on an energy basis, and will outperform natural gas once as it retains its historic volatility. The 1M square

foot campus is on a district-energy system and the biomass plant feeds this system. **The biomass plant is also extremely efficient, and was designed as a combined-heat-and-power plant. A 600kW back-pressure steam turbine provides power that runs the plant.** The plant also has **a large absorption chiller, which can provide cold water to campus without using electric chilling.** Therefore, the campus can produce campus chilling water with either biomass-generated steam or electricity. **Adding fuel flexibility to campus heating and cooling operations provides additional cost flexibility that can help lower campus energy costs and stabilize budgets.**

Most people consider the reduced greenhouse gas emissions from using wind, but neglect the embedded water savings that come from using wind turbines instead of coal-fired electricity. By using wind, **Morris avoids using about 7.8M gallons of water that would be drawn from groundwater aquifers, rivers, and lakes to meet the cooling demands of a power plant.**

Morris has aggressively pursued energy conservation work. **Morris completed a \$4M energy service contract to improve campus energy conservation. The energy conservation work has avoided 2,000 MTCO₂ of greenhouse gas emissions/year and savings of \$100,000 per year in energy costs.** This work also included interior and exterior lighting upgrades, improvements to variable frequency drives and controls, upgrades to plumbing systems, sump pump modifications, pool ventilation, vending machines, and more. **Several changes made to the water system at the heating plant reduced chemical usage by 75%,** a reduction of \$10,000/year in chemical costs. Now, the plant treats about 1,200 gallons/day instead of 4,000 gallons/day.

Morris builds and renovates green. In 2012, the newly renovated **Welcome Center received the Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) Gold rating.** This was also

significant because the **Welcome Center is a historic building and is on the National Register of Historic Places.** The building **has received several awards** and is the **only building in Minnesota to exclusively cool with chilled-beam technology.** The Welcome Center was modeled to be 77% more efficient than the baseline Minnesota building. Recently, Morris built a new residence hall -- the Green Prairie Community Residence Hall (Green Prairie), which was the first new building constructed on campus since the 1970s. **Green Prairie also received a LEED Gold rating in 2014.** Investments in green building and renovation have helped to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and increase savings. **Rain gardens outside of the Green Prairie help collect water from the parking lot and the surrounding landscape.** These gardens are populated with native and pollinator-friendly plantings, making the gardens a great educational resource for the public.

The Morris recycling and composting program helps reduce waste, save costs, and improve environmental performance. **In 2013, we measured a recycling rate of 37%.** The cold-weather **composting system at Morris was developed by Morris students and staff in partnership with the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency.** Because of composting and recycling improvements made over the past two years, we have reduced our waste by 127,000 lbs/year, or 60 tons per year. **Each year, the campus composts more than 30 tons of food waste and saves about \$10,000/year in landfill costs.** Over the past three years, we have diverted about 80 tons of food waste from the landfill. Composting extends to all areas of campus life. Morris food waste is composted at Dining Services, the campus cafe, in the residence halls and at campus events. The food waste becomes compost -- and is used as a fertilizer on campus grounds. For example, Morris-generated compost was used for landscaping around the new Green Prairie, **supplying nutrition to edible landscapes around the building, especially the new apple orchard that runs alongside the building.**

Morris is working to reduce the amount of hazardous chemicals used in classrooms and campus operations. **Morris has a green cleaning policy** and is used in making decisions about what chemicals are purchased and used on campus. To reduce hazardous chemicals used during lab instruction, the Chemistry discipline moved from **macro-scale to micro-scale chemistry experiments** and green chemistry has been incorporated into the organic chemistry lab. The vast majority of general chemistry experiments include water as a solvent with little reliance on volatile organic solvents, further reducing hazardous waste production. Most of our Chemistry waste is aqueous and is non-hazardous. The Morris chemistry discipline has published three microscale experiments in the Journal of Chemical Education and many green chemistry experiments have been presented by students and faculty at national conferences. Because of these efforts, **Morris chemistry professors were awarded the 2012 American Chemical Society Award for incorporating Sustainability into Chemistry Education.**

Morris is in a rural location, so we have had to find creative ways to assist students with alternative transportation. Morris works in collaboration with the city of Morris to support a local transit system that provides affordable fares to riders. Morris also uses a rideshare program called ZimRide to coordinate rides and was previously recognized as having one of the highest percentage of users at any college in the United States. We have seen a 400% increase in postings since 2011, with about 2,533 postings per year. Additionally, the campus coordinates bus travel between Morris and the Twin Cities to help reduce emissions by students on weekends. And, Morris is working to increase the fuel economy of its fleet. **Morris's transportation fleet is 40% low-emission hybrid.**

Pillar II

Morris has taken huge steps to improve the health and wellness of students, staff, and the local community. **Morris practices integrated pest management.** We monitor pests on campus and

follow landscape management practices that help us reduce the likelihood of common pests and use less fertilizer and chemicals. The campus uses native plant varieties. Native plantings can be seen all over campus. These native plantings require less water to survive -- reducing our water consumption. Non-chemical uses are preferred and used first, which includes weeding and trapping practices. Morris is also preparing for emerald ash borer, which has entered Minnesota. We are taking down weakened ash trees. **Morris has a diverse tree canopy on campus, and is continuing to improve its diversity, drought tolerance, and ability to handle effects from changing climate.** Morris has submitted to become a 2015 Tree Campus USA partner. Morris has worked actively, in partnership with the Minnesota Greencorps, to improve the “urban” tree canopy on campus and in the city of Morris. The goal is to increase shading to public buildings, reduce heat island effects, hold water and reduce run-off.

Environmental health is an important priority for Morris. The campus has a **comprehensive Indoor Air Quality program**, managed by the Department of Environmental Health and Safety (DEHS) in partnership with Facilities Management (FM). The program has a major focus on preventing and responding to water infiltration from rain and other sources into buildings. There are protocols for water events involving DEHS evaluations and FM standard operating procedures. The program also receives and responds to a variety of complaints from building occupants and tracks trends. Smoke-free policies are enforced and selective areas designated as fragrance-free. DEHS has in house capabilities to identify and assess fungal and mold contamination and FM has trained mold-abatement staff. **Morris also has numerous plants that are maintained in the buildings, which can improve the air quality and aesthetics of each building.** Indoor plantings are a big feature on campus. Research on the impact of air quality and plants is ongoing. Morris also has a robust chemical management system in accordance with University of Minnesota, state and federal policies.

Employee participation in health and wellness programs helps reduce insurance premiums for staff and their families. Participation in wellness program and activities earns points towards reduced premiums. **The Regional Fitness Center (RFC) is a shared campus and community facility, with swimming pools, basketball courts, an indoor track, and exercise equipment.** The RFC is located conveniently on campus. RFC is shared between the campus, city of Morris, and Stevens County. **RFC has about 32,000 student uses/year and 1,000 student users (53% of student population).** The RFC has about 76,000 community uses/year with about 1,800 members -- and roughly 80 are Morris employee memberships. RFC also provides a large number of fitness and education classes. Students have logged about 4,800 group fitness class uses/year, and the larger community logs about 17,000 uses/year. **About 250 faculty and staff (66% of employees) participate in a wellness program that provides free flu shots, biometric screenings, and reduced health insurance premiums with use of the RFC.** Morris employees are also offered opportunities for health coaching, in person, or on the phone. Morris also offers a range of stress reduction programs. Employees may also participate in the ZAP bike program, which records the number of rides to campus a user takes and contributes to wellness program points.

Morris is a charter partner of *Pride of the Prairie*, the longest running local food program in Minnesota higher education. This program has worked to bring more local and healthy food to the communities of west central Minnesota. **Morris Dining Services uses 30% locally obtained food and offers a range of healthy options, including vegetarian and vegan.** For example, there is a 'made-to-order' (MTO) stir-fry option of fresh vegetables and a MTO salad bar, where vegetables are stir-fried for a salad topping. **Morris has a student-run organic garden, a Native American garden, and production garden** in partnership with the U of M West Central Research and Outreach Center. Between these three gardens, **Morris students had their most successful harvest yet in 2014.** Food from campus gardens supported

community events, like the Native American Community Meal, held at a local church, and the Fall Into Health event at the local high school. **These two events alone fed about 800 community members, including many Morris students.** Every few weeks during the school year the Community Meals program serves food for students and community members in an off-campus location. In the summer, students take part in the **Live to Garden program**, which provides free housing on campus, in exchange for sweat equity in the gardens each week.

Morris is also the lead organizing partner of the *Morris Healthy Eating Initiative* (MHE). MHE began over five years ago and has focused on improving health outcomes on campus and in the community. **The work of MHE has been expansive.** MHE brought together Stevens Community Medical Center, Sodexo Dining Services, Stevens County Human Services, West Central Wellness, Stevens-Traverse-Grant Public Health, and additional partners.

The **work of MHE included a *Community Food Assessment*** of campus that provided baseline data about student health metrics and preferences. We learned from the Assessment that 75% of Morris students meet Centers for Disease Control (CDC) requirements for moderate and high levels of physical activity. But, only 16% of Morris students eat fruits and vegetables five times a day as recommended by CDC. Unfortunately, two-out-of-five Morris students (41 percent) are overweight, obese, or very obese—nearly half of male students and more than one-third of female students. Over 50% of faculty, 60% of professional staff, and nearly 70% of general staff respondents are overweight or obese. About one-in-five faculty and professional staff respondents and nearly one-in-three general staff respondents are obese.

The Morris Master Plan recommended changes to improve healthy eating, including:

- 1) Change food procurement, consumption, and waste management patterns to reduce Morris's campus carbon footprint.

- 2) Research procurement and carbon foot-printing data, including specific food items
- 3) Eat a more seasonal menu plan, based on availability of local ingredients
- 4) Identify sources of local, grass fed, and organic beef, pork, chicken, vegetables
- 5) Target 50% locally sourced and organic foods by 2013.
- 6) Integrate an on-campus greenhouse into the campus food system; plant fruit/nut trees for year-round food production.
- 7) Save energy by increasing the amount of fresh and minimally processed foods on the menu.

MHE has coordinated **numerous cooking classes at the local high school for students and community participants**. MHE has helped to grow local farmers' markets, including in the city of Morris. The Morris Farmers' Market also includes the opportunity for **low-income families and students to use their EBT/SNAP cards** to purchase locally grown food. Morris also has a robust **on-campus health and wellness program, which includes mental health counseling, an on-campus clinic and nurse, a peer-health education program, and a Green Dot program to reduce on- and off-campus violence**.

Pillar III

Sustainability and environmental education is central to our campus aspirations. Morris's tagline is "a renewable, sustainable education." **Environmental stewardship is directly incorporated into our campus mission and vision statement**. This includes a commitment to environmental and STEM education that is inclusive to a diverse student body. **Morris has the highest percentage students-of-color (24%) in the University of Minnesota- system. Notably, 16% of those students-of-color are Native American**. One-in-three students is from a minority population or international-in-origin; and one-in-three is first generation.

Morris has both environmental studies and environmental science majors, which together

attract a large number of majors. In 2014, 84 students declared majors in these programs. **Institutional funding is provided for faculty members to develop sustainability-related coursework.** For example, the Morris Educational Development Program (EDP) is designed to stimulate and support curricular development. **The EDP program specifically targets sustainability course development as a priority area.** Morris professors have been recognized for their incorporation of sustainability, environmental, and human systems into their coursework, research and teaching.

Many Morris faculty are deeply engaged with teaching and research that intersects with sustainability. To benchmark our work, **Morris developed a definition of sustainability-focused and sustainability-themed courses.** To help students understand their course options, students are provided with a list of sustainability courses they can take, representing 12% of courses at Morris. **78% of Morris academic disciplines report offering at least one sustainability course. And, 23% of Morris faculty identify as doing sustainability-related research and/or creative activities.** Furthermore, **59% of academic departments have at least one faculty member doing sustainability-related research.** This is important because **at Morris 57% of our students participate in undergraduate research or creative productions.** Information about sustainability work by Morris faculty is featured each year in a report submitted to the University Of Minnesota Board Of Regents and is available to the public.

In 2014, the Morris American Indian Science and Engineering Society (AISES) received the Outstanding Community Service Award and their advisor was recognized as Advisor of the Year. In 2012, AISES won the Distinguished Chapter of the Year. Morris is engaging a wide range of students in STEM. **Morris has an active summer program, called WIND-STEP, which engages Native American students in science and engineering** and has a focus

on wind development. Additionally, Morris received a large Howard Hughes Medical Institute (HHMI) grant to provide science opportunities to all Morris students. HHMI puts a special focus on students-of-color, first generation, and low-income students, providing them opportunities for STEM research experiences. Additionally, Morris is currently developing the **Morris Sustainability Leadership for the Future (SLF) program with a group of 15 fellows**, including students, faculty and staff. The SLF program builds on the national reputation of the Morris campus to develop the next generation of leaders prepared to live in a carbon-constrained, more sustainable world. Fellows are working on creating a central structure to coordinate sustainability-leadership activities occurring on campus. To do this work, they will identify and support promising curricular and program developments, create guidebooks and workshops, and develop infrastructure, practices, and policies that promote coordination across offices.

Sustainability education extends beyond the campus and into the community. **Morris theatre productions, like *Sophie and the Adventures of Ice Island*, are performed for hundreds of children**, and help educate kids about the role they can play in reducing waste. For the past three summers, **Morris students have organized summer camps for kids, including Prairie Adventure Camp** and Nature Quest Camp.

Morris students and alumni are serious about their civic work. **Morris worked with the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency to launch the Minnesota GreenCorps AmeriCorps service program** and has been a partner since 2009. The Minnesota GreenCorps program has **launched the sustainability careers of over 100 young people across the state, including 20 former Morris students**. Some of these members served the Morris campus and region by working on a wide range of community initiatives, including recycling in local schools, composting on campus, energy conservation on campus and in the county, improving the local

tree canopy, improving stormwater management and more. And, there are numerous examples of how Morris graduates have been successful in pursuing environmental and STEM-based careers. For the past three years, the **U of M Systemwide Sustainability Report to the Board of Regents has featured evidence of these alumni successes.** Morris alumni populate the offices of many elected representatives in state and national government, some even are serving. Matt Little is a Morris alum and mayor of Lakeville, Minnesota -- he is one of Minnesota's youngest mayors.

Morris students are encouraged to use their interdisciplinary experiences to create change on- and off-campus. For example, the composting initiative at Morris has evolved over the past four years. Multiple students have integrated composting into their coursework, research and service. Students have worked on composting policies in the city of Morris, to improve local ordinances on backyard composting. Students used GIS to identify and optimize our composting site location, by examining wind directions, water flows, transportation times, etc. to select the location. **Currently, Morris students are working with the Morris Area Schools (MAES) to incorporate composting into their waste system.** A waste assessment is underway to determine the quality and quantity of their food waste stream. **The goal is to incorporate MAES food waste into the Morris campus's onsite composting program during the 2015 school year.**

Green Prairie is also home to the Green Prairie Leadership Cohort (GPLC). The GPLC is a group of students who live in the residence hall and have committed to learning about and working on sustainability efforts. During the semester, the MHE coordinator, sustainability director, and a philosophy professor (who is also coordinator of the SLF program), meet together with students in Green Prairie to advance sustainability initiatives on campus and in the community. These GPLC students have many different majors and are able to use their

interdisciplinary interests to advance these efforts. **For example, these students participated in the local “Parade of Lights” in the city of Morris and provided information about composting to several hundred community members.**

Morris is home to several civic engagement offices. During the last academic year, **the Office of Community Engagement connected about 600 Morris students to nearly 20,000 hours of community service.** The **Center for Small Towns** connects scores of students with community-based projects. And, the **Office of Sustainability** connects students to sustainability and environment-themed work on- and off-campus.

Together, these efforts led to the recent Carnegie Community-Engagement designation. Morris has also received **recognition from the Midwestern Higher Education Compact for the effectiveness and efficiency** of a Morris education and the population of students we serve. And, *Affordable Colleges* just ranked **Morris as the 15th Most Affordable Public College for Out-of-State Students** in the U.S. Taken together, Morris has remarkable environmental, educational, economic and civic outcomes.