

UMD event encourages activism

BY STEVE KUCHERA
NEWS TRIBUNE STAFF WRITER

ly, the goal of higher education is to prepare students to live productive lives.

On Thursday, the University of Minnesota's Office of Civic Engagement will demonstrate what it is doing to increase the level of civic involvement among students — and, through that, to help meet community needs.

"We sit up on this hill with vast resources and don't necessarily always do a good job of sharing those resources with the community," said Casey LaCore of the University of Minnesota Duluth's Community Program. "That's something we want to do a better job at. We want to know what the needs of our community are and work with the community to meet those needs.

"Doing that will give our students the experiences they need. We want to assist our students become better citizens."

will show some of the ways that is happening at the second annual Celebration of Civic Engagement on Thursday. The event will include several panel discussions on partnerships either planned or active.

During one, UMD composition professor David Beard will talk about the work his honor students are doing for the Clayton Jackson McGhie Memorial.

The nine students have undertaken writing projects and producing multimedia presentations for the memorial group.

"It's important for undergraduate students to learn to write for real audiences doing real work, and not just for an instructor who's going to grade them," Beard said. "I'm excited that the university is interested in this kind of collaboration."

In another presentation, chemical engineering professor Greg Rutkowski will talk about a planned project where students will work with Sustainable Duluth to promote energy conservation and sustainable energy.

If you go

The University of Minnesota Duluth is presenting its second annual Celebration of Civic Engagement on Thursday. The free public event runs from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. in the Kirby Student Center Ballroom. The event includes posters and booths displaying a variety of programs and community partnerships as well as these five panel discussions:

■ **10 a.m.:** "Integrating the Clayton Jackson McGhie Memorial into an Advanced Writing Course" with David Beard of UMD composition and Heidi Bakk-Hansen of the Clayton Jackson McGhie Memorial Board.

■ **10:30 a.m.:** "Working with the Community to Promote Sustainable Energy" with Greg Rutkowski of UMD's chemical engineering department and Bill Mittlefeldt of Sustainable Duluth.

■ **11 a.m.:** "Bringing the Award-Winning Nature Author Sneed B. Collard III to the Community" with Jean Stevenson of the UMD education department and Julie Ernst of the UMD health, physical education/outdoor recreation department.

■ **Noon:** "Marketing Students Impacting Community Meth Issues" with John Kratz of UMD management studies, Monica Anderson, Xavier Bell and Andrew Benvie of the Duluth Meth Task Force, and UMD students.

■ **1 p.m.:** "Mythic Transformations: Bringing Guest Artists to the Campus and Community" with Karen Hoffman and Amy Gabbert of UMD theater.

more energy-efficient.

"The plan is to help students see how they can use what they learn in the classroom and apply it to problems relevant to the community," Rutkowski said.

The project is being

helped with a small grant from UMD.

The UMD civic engagement effort is part of the larger American Democracy Project. The national project is directed by the American Association of State Colleges and Universities.