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For Immediate Release:
April 21, 2014

\$20,000 OF ECONOMIC IMPACT EXPECTED FROM 2015 REGIONAL CONFERENCE

MANKATO, MN – Minnesota State University, Mankato has been selected to host the Upper Midwest Regional Honors Conference (UMRHC) from March 26-28, 2015. The conference is held at various universities around the Midwest. The 2015 UMRHC conference will bring 200 honors students from around the Upper Midwest as well as their advisors and faculty to Mankato. This conference will have an estimated economic impact of \$20,000 to the Greater Mankato community.

The theme of the 2015 UMRHC Conference is "Confluence and Conflict." In accordance with this theme, faculty members Dr. Shannon Fisher (Director of the Water Resources Center) and Dr. Gwen Westerman (English and Humanities) will give public lectures on the regional river systems and Dakota culture and history, respectively.

The conference provides honors students the opportunity to present their research, scholarly and creative projects through poster and oral presentations. The conference fosters inter-campus engagement for faculty and builds collaborations for highly motivated students. A further goal of the conference is to educate attendees about the community in which the conference is located, the greater Mankato area.

"This is not only a great event for MSU, this is a great event for this community," said Anna Thill, President of Visit Mankato.

About Visit Mankato:

Visit Mankato, LLC, the local Convention & Visitors Bureau, is a Limited Liability Corporation of Greater Mankato Growth, Inc. Visit Mankato leads the development of the visitor economy in Mankato by actively promoting Mankato as a premier destination for conventions, tournaments and tourism. These activities bring a steady flow of visitors and business activity to Mankato that benefits local residents and future visitors. The work of Visit Mankato helps strengthen the hospitality industry which provides jobs, a diverse tax base and amenities for everyone to enjoy. www.visitmankatomn.com