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MEDIA CONTACT: Lisa Sommer
517-492-2412
lsommer@mnaonline.org

Grand Valley State University and Westown Jubilee Housing Receive \$10,000 Carter Partnership Award

June 19, 2009 - LANSING, MI – Grand Valley State University and Westown Jubilee Housing received the 2009 Carter Partnership Award winner for outstanding campus-community partnerships. This campus-community partnership was recognized June 18, 2009, during the annual Governor’s Service Awards at the Governor’s Lansing Residence.

The [Jimmy and Rosalynn Carter Partnership Award for Campus-Community Collaboration](#) is given bi-annually by [Michigan Campus Compact](#) to one partnership involving a Michigan college or university and a community group with the \$10,000 prize divided equally between the campus and community partners for working together in exceptional ways to improve people’s lives and enhance learning in the process.

The [Grand Valley State University School of Engineering](#) and [Westown Jubilee Housing](#) partnership centers on energy efficient housing for low income families living in the West Side of Grand Rapids. This partnership, in existence since 2001, is a covenantal collaboration in which Westown Jubilee provides a supply of housing projects with energy management needs and challenges and the School of Engineering provides innovative solutions for those challenges. Within the partnership, engineering students and faculty provide leadership and labor to enhance the energy performance of these homes. It benefits community members directly and it also provides an opportunity for engineering students to become better citizens by using service as an education tool.

Grand Valley State University and Westown Jubilee Housing was among three finalists vying for this award. A selection panel composed of representatives from community, higher education, business, and government organizations selected the four finalists and will choose the winner of the award. The committee is independent of Michigan Campus Compact, the organizers of the award. The committee made its selection of the three finalists based on the combined merits of each program and gave careful consideration to how closely the program applicants matched the award guidelines. The award guidelines consisted of the following:

- Collaboration between a Michigan college or university (public or private) and the community for at least two years.
- A history of shared power and decision-making.
- Impact on the lives of families and communities through increased economic opportunity, resourceful social and civic networks, or responsive public systems.
- Data-informed planning and decision-making.
- An optimal blend of learning, research, and/or service for higher education participants.
- Efforts to enlist other collaborators (e.g. businesses, civic organizations, government agencies, faith-based institutions, etc.).

- Documentation of measurable outcomes.
- Promise of sustainability.

Michigan Campus Compact (MCC) is a coalition of college and university presidents who are committed to fulfilling the public purpose of higher education. We promote the education and commitment of Michigan college students to be civically engaged citizens, through creating and expanding academic, co-curricular and campus-wide opportunities for community service, service-learning and civic engagement.

The Governor's Service Awards is an annual celebration hosted by Governor Jennifer M. Granholm and First Gentleman Daniel G. Mulhern to acknowledge and pay tribute to individuals, businesses and organizations for their commitment to serving their communities through volunteerism. For more information, visit www.michigan.gov/mcsc.

For more information about the award, please contact Shelley Long at 517-492-2432 or slong@mnaonline.org.

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