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Press Release

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Higher Education in Service to Michigan

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Professor of Teacher Education at Michigan State University to be Honored with Campus Compact Award

February 14, 2006

Lansing, MI, - Michigan Campus Compact (MCC) is pleased to announce that Dr. Christopher Wheeler from Michigan State University, will be honored with an MCC Faculty/Staff Community Service-Learning Award. This prestigious annual award is the highest MCC bestows on faculty and staff in the state of Michigan.

Dr. Wheeler, Professor of Teacher Education, has been designated by peers as the faculty/staff person on campus who has made the most outstanding contributions in community service-learning. This award recognizes the influence on or engagement of students to be involved in community service or service-learning through modeling, instruction, and/or special projects. Dr. Wheeler was nominated by Ms. Georgia Davidson, Associate Director, and Ms. Karen McKnight Casey, Director, Center for Service-Learning and Civic Engagement at Michigan State University.

Dr. Wheeler utilizes service-learning in Teacher Education courses to examine issues of diversity and opportunity based on such factors as race, class, gender, special needs, sexual orientation, language and culture, and strategies to promote quality content for diverse learners. Four hundred students enrolled in twenty sections of this course serve the Lansing School District, providing approximately 8,000 hours of tutoring at local elementary, middle, and high schools each semester. Through Dr. Wheeler's collaboration with Lansing teachers, MSU graduate students also serve as mentors to children from low income families.

Dr. Wheeler will be formally honored during an evening awards ceremony Thursday, February 16, 2006. This ceremony will take place at the Northbank Center on the campus of the University of Michigan-Flint as part of the Tenth Annual Institute on Service-Learning "The Places We Live: Student Engagement in Diverse Communities." Dinner will begin at approximately 5:30 p.m., with the ceremony to follow.

Michigan Campus Compact is a state-level non-profit organization that promotes 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.

Please contact Amanda Schafer at 517-492-2424 or aschafer@micampuscompact.org for more information about the award and ceremony. Please contact Dr. Wheeler directly at cwheeler@msu.edu or 517-353-0750 for more information about his outstanding contributions on campus and in the community