

NEWS RELEASE

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Earth Month events at PTC focus on climate change

PINE CITY, Minn. – Pine Technical College will host a series of lectures and events to advance the public's understanding of global climate change. Each of the events scheduled in the month of April, 2009 are free, and the public is invited and encouraged to attend. All events will be held on the PTC campus and many will be presented in the auditorium.

The series kicks off on Mon. April 6 at 6 p.m. with a presentation of “An Inconvenient Truth,” a documentary by the Former Vice-President Al Gore that addresses global warming issues. A community action discussion will follow the film, and refreshments will be available.

On Mon. April 13, the Audubon Center of the North Woods will present “Raptors and Environmental Change” at 6 p.m. The public is invited to see live raptors and learn about their role in the changing environment.

On Wed. April 22, Pine Technical College will celebrate Earth Day with a number of activities planned on campus. More details on these activities will be available in the coming weeks by visiting the College website at www.pinetech.edu.

The final Earth Month presentation at the College, “Wildlife and Climate Change,” will be held Thurs. April 30 and will reveal how the environmental change affects fish and wildlife populations in Minnesota. The presentation will begin at 6 p.m. and refreshments will be served.

The Earth Month series was made possible by a \$3800 grant through the College Faculty Awards for Excellence at Pine Technical College. Other initiatives at PTC aimed at making the campus more environmentally aware include the recently established “Ever Green Club.” This student-managed organization emphasizes recycling on campus and started an adopt-a-highway project. The club also plans to educate students about environmentally friendly alternatives such as composting.

According to Alexis Grinde, advisor for the Ever Green Club, a recent paperless survey of faculty and students at PTC found the majority are interested in learning more about what they can do to help the environment, and College administrators have agreed to work with local government officials to make PTC and Pine City a leader in green communities for the area.

“Many students have the idea that global climate change does not and will not affect their lives,” says Grinde. “But, climate change is a real issue, and most people in East Central Minnesota have limited knowledge about it. This is an opportunity to learn,” Grinde added.

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