



Minnesota International Center
A World Affairs Council

Media contact:

George Hornik,
Program Manager,
Minnesota
International Center

ghornik@umn.edu
612.310.0989 c

Eric Johnson
International Speaker Visit
Coordinator
Fairmont Junior and Senior
High

ehjohnson@fairmont.k12.mn.us
507.236.5636 c

Media Alert

Rising Global Citizens On a Quest from India to Albania

Fairmont students host international guests to learn about the world

A series of intercultural presentations at Five Lakes and William Budd Elementary Schools and Fairmont Junior Senior High School

What:

Two days of cultural showcases, sponsored by the Minnesota International Center and 3M Company, to introduce Fairmont students to world cultures, face to face.

When:

Monday and Tuesday, January 7-8th, 2008

Where:

Five Lakes and William Budd Elementary Schools and Fairmont Junior Senior High School

Highlights:

- **Students learn about daily life in other cultures**, meeting face to face with 22 international guests, natives of 17 countries including Thailand, Kyrgyzstan, India, Jamaica, Sri Lanka, Mexico, Colombia, Holland, South Africa, Russia, Hungary, Poland, Albania, Ecuador, Tanzania, and Nepal.

- **International guests** rotate among classrooms in the schools, making a total of 82 visits. Speakers show their traditional dress, artifacts, and colorful cultural showcases.

- **On January 7th at 7 p.m. the Red Rock Center for the Arts hosts a performance by the Twin Cities-based Hayer Bibima.** A group of professional African drummers, including Francis Kofi, Brian Van Tassel, Dan Handeen and Eric Coursen, shares the joy of traditional African drumming with Fairmont students and the community at large. The event is free and open to the public. In addition, the drummers conduct a special workshop for the drumming class at the Fairmont Junior Senior High School at 6:15 p.m. at the Center.

Details:

“The Minnesota International Center (MIC) believes that if the world can be personalized to young people, they will become more aware and informed about world cultures,” says George Jerzy Hornik, MIC’s K-12 Education Program Manger.

MIC’s visits are part of a statewide effort to provide schoolchildren with opportunities to interact with people from other cultures. “MIC aims to awaken the students’ curiosity and increase their cultural competency so they can successfully participate in our increasingly multicultural workforce,” says Hornik.

3M Company, a long-time supporter of the Minnesota International Center, sponsors MIC’s visits to 3M communities throughout Greater Minnesota. In addition to Fairmont, MIC also will visit Staples and Alexandria in 2008. “We’re thrilled to connect international guests with students in 3M communities so they can learn about the world from first-hand sources. It’s also exciting for the international guests to experience the beautiful Fairmont community,” says Hornik.

Elementary students receive a “passport,” stamped by international guests from each country, which serves as a reminder of the day’s experiences and multicultural purpose.

During the 2006-2007 academic year, MIC coordinated more than 600 statewide visits of 100+ speakers from 51 countries to an audience of 16,000 students in Minnesota schools.

Notes:

News photography and filming at the event permitted. Interviews with international speakers can be scheduled. Please contact George Hornik at 612.310.0989.

Acclaimed as a national model for world affairs programs, the Minnesota International Center (MIC) inspires the Minnesota community to understand global issues and cultures in an ever-changing world.

In 2006, MIC was awarded the Carol Marquis Award for Excellence in School Programs by the World Affairs Councils of America.

Find out more at www.micglobe.org.