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ACL Conference, June 7-10, 2010: Northwestern College - St. Paul, Minnesota

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ACL Conference, June 7-10, 2010

Northwestern College – St. Paul, Minnesota

The Association of Christian Librarians 2010 Annual Conference will return to the North Star State this coming June 7-10. The librarians of Northwestern College in St. Paul, Minnesota will serve as hosts of the event, which features the theme *True North: Illumination – Inspiration – Information*. This will be our third conference held at Northwestern's campus; the first two occasions taking place in 1980 and 1997.

Our Host Institution

Northwestern College is a magnificent place to host our conference. The campus is centrally located in the dynamic Minneapolis-St. Paul metropolitan area, yet its 107-acre campus offers serene wooded areas, historic buildings, and nearly a mile of lakeshore along Lake Johanna.

A quick note on Northwestern College's history: the college began as The Northwestern Bible and Missionary Training School, founded in 1902 at First Baptist Church of Minneapolis, Minnesota. Under the leadership of William Berntsen (for whom the college library is named), the college purchased the land and buildings of the Nazareth Hall Preparatory Seminary from the Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Saint Paul/Minneapolis in 1970. The current campus opened to classes in 1972.

Because of the Roman Catholic heritage in the architecture of the campus, conference attendees will enjoy some truly inspiring settings during our conference. For example, morning worship services will be held in Northwestern's Nazareth Chapel. The chapel features walls of marble quarried from Africa, white pillars from Italy, and stained-glass windows which portray several scenes from the Bible.

Program Features

Our keynote speaker this year will be Mrs. Erin Walsh of the National Institute for Media and the Family. Headquartered in Minneapolis,

the Institute is a prominent research-based organization that studies the effects of media on adolescents and youth. Among its leading initiatives in the MediaWise movement, which is an effort to provide families and concerned individuals with information about the impact of media on children, and to offer resources needed to make informed choices.

Mrs. Walsh has been instrumental to the development of the MediaWise movement. In 2003 she organized a nationwide video game awareness and accountability campaign with twenty colleges and universities. In addition to her dynamic MediaWise workshops, Erin has special expertise in body image and the media, adolescence and youth development, and video game violence. On Tuesday morning of our conference, Mrs. Walsh will present on the powerful role of media in teenagers' lives and explain how to use this information to understand, communicate with, and stay connected to youth.

Wednesday morning of conference week will feature our annual vendor fair. As an additional component to this year's event, some vendors will provide conference attendees with "breakout" instructional demonstrations of various databases and software.

Accommodations

Conference attendees who wish to stay on campus will find accommodations in the Hartill and Knutson wings of the Robertson Student Center. Each room is an efficiency apartment that will include a private bathroom, kitchenette (stove, oven, refrigerator, no utensils), air-conditioning, beddings, telephone, and wireless internet service. Several national-chain hotels are within a short distance; more information about off-campus housing will be made available on the conference website. †

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