



Head of Urban Ecology Center to receive honorary doctorate May 9

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For more info: Vivian Rothschild, Director of Communications; 414.847.3239, cell, 414.507.7364; vrothsch@miad.edu (IMAGE AVAILABLE)

PRESS RELEASE

MILWAUKEE... Neil Hoffman, president, has announced that the Milwaukee Institute of Art & Design will confer an Honorary Doctorate of Fine Arts on Kenneth L. Leinbach, executive director of Milwaukee's Urban Ecology Center, at its commencement ceremony on Saturday, May 9, 11 a.m.

Commencement is held at the Milwaukee Public Library's Centennial Hall, 733 N. 8th St.

"A luminary in the Milwaukee community, Mr. Leinbach is being honored for his leadership role in community-based environmental education, which has been nationally recognized and is being modeled in cities around the United States," said MIAD President Neil Hoffman.

Leinbach led the community effort to build the Urban Ecology Center from an old trailer in an abandoned city park into a state-of-the-art green community center that annually serves approximately 70,000 visitors of all ages.

MIAD students are deeply engaged with the center and its mission through the college's Service Learning Program; making the center their number one choice for fulfilling their community service requirement. The center was also a vital part of the college's observance of Earth Week, and MIAD students are committed participants in the college's ongoing "green efforts."

Nearly 135 students will receive their Bachelor of Fine Arts degree this year. They will join MIAD's 2,700 alumni, who fuel the state's economy and society while serving clients worldwide. Some 80% choose to live and work in Wisconsin, negating a well-documented regional brain drain.

In addition to commencement, seniors also participate in the MIAD 2009 Senior Exhibition, which represents thesis work in the college's 11 Bachelor of Fine Arts majors. The exhibition continues through May 9 from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Tuesday through Saturday at MIAD's Third Ward Campus, 273 E. Erie St. Admission is free.

MIAD is a degree-granting college where individuals discover and realize their creative potential. Founded in 1974 as Wisconsin's only independent college of art and design, it enrolls 650 talented students from across the country who are taught by artists and designers recognized regionally and nationally for their professional and educational accomplishments. Its unique academic approach blends curricular and extracurricular experiences, a community service course requirement, and liberal studies in 11 majors toward the Bachelor of Fine Arts degree. With 80% of its 2,700 graduates using their innovative skills in Wisconsin, the college contributes a vital "brain gain" to the state that shapes its creative and economic future.