

UCM Earth Week Celebration Reinforced Sustainability Commitment

Trane and other valued sponsors helped make the celebration possible

5/7/2010

On April 22nd America celebrated the 40th anniversary of Earth Day and the University of Central Missouri planned a celebration worth remembering that lasted for an entire week. The theme for UCM's celebration, "Change Your Behavior, Change Our World," reinforced the University's commitment and dedication toward reducing its carbon output, improving energy efficiency and addressing a backlog of deferred maintenance projects through a campus wide Energy Savings Initiative.

The week's events included a fashion show presented by Haute Trash, an organization that creates garments from recyclable material, a volunteer service day, five speakers and three films concerning sustainable issues, a green luncheon, an alternative energy roundtable, a green vendor tradeshow, energy efficient and solar powered Club Car demonstrations, and a keynote address by Ed Begley Jr.



The Earth Week celebration culminated with an inspirational message by Ed Begley Jr., star of the environmental reality show "Living with Ed." Begley's message centered around hope and making small changes. He shared small changes we can make to stop and even reverse the damage we have done to our planet. He provided numerous ideas on how to make quick and easy changes toward living a more sustainable lifestyle. "He shared with us many simple, inexpensive, and practical environmentally friendly ideas that lead to behavioral changes, which will undoubtedly change the world in which we live" said Dr. Steve Boone, associate dean of the College of Arts, Humanities, and Social Sciences at UCM.

"We would not have been able to get someone of Ed's stature without the help of our corporate sponsors," Boone said. In his introduction for Begley keynote speech, Dr. Boone offered his appreciation for UCM's Energy Savings Initiative partner, "Trane's commitment to education and green initiatives has been above and beyond what we could have expected, and we sincerely appreciate them for all they have done and will continue to do."

In May of 2009 UCM signed a \$36.1 million energy performance contract with Trane. The project will radically reduce energy consumption and the University's carbon footprint while making a significant improvement to the academic learning environment. The Board of Governors President Richard Phillips said, "This is a statement of what we believe in and what we value as an institution."

In 2007, UCM President Aaron Podolefsky made a commitment to sustainability when he became a charter signatory of the American College and University Presidents Climate Commitment. The \$36.1 million Energy Savings Initiative with Trane reinforces the University's commitment to sustainability. Chad Remboldt, the Trane consultant who worked with UCM to make the project possible says, "The project will leapfrog UCM ahead of its short-term requirements and will become the U.S. university role model for sustainability."

The various upgrades involved in the Energy Savings Initiative include the installation of renewable energy-efficient HVAC systems, installation of geothermal heating and cooling to four buildings on

campus, new hot water distribution systems, installation of more energy-efficient lighting, installation of campus-wide building automation, life safety measures, laboratory air systems and controls, green technologies for curriculum utilization and campus green awareness, replacement of roofs and windows on various buildings, improved air handling systems and acoustical improvements for the classroom and office spaces.

The upgrades are projected to be complete this fall and will save the University thousands of dollars in operations and maintenance costs each month. Although the upgrades will be complete this fall, the University's commitment to sustainability will "sustain" for years to come. Their efforts to educate the campus and community will certainly reap energy efficient results and sustainable benefits for future generations.



Club Car partnered with SolarDrive to provide solar-powered utility vehicle demonstrations during the Earth Week celebration.

Support from Trane and other valued partners allowed UCM to secure Ed Begley Jr. as the Earth Week keynote speaker. Pictured from left to right: Mike Hines, Matt Gates, Tom Bohannon, Ed Begley Jr., Angie Gensler, and Ryan McConnell.

