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Negative portrayals ^{11/29/11} of UMD students are unfair

We'd like to address misconceptions and negative views of college students in Duluth from our perspective.

As-degree seeking students at the University of Minnesota Duluth, we are offended by negative images presented about college students by some community members. We do not spend every hour of every day consuming alcohol. In reality, we spend our days dedicated to our studies. According to the National College Health Assessment of UMD students, nearly one-fourth of us hadn't used alcohol within 30 days of being surveyed. And half of those students never have used alcohol.

UMD is committed to the health and wellness of students and recognizes the serious effects of underage drinking and alcohol abuse.

Students are involved in several activities that don't involve alcohol use. Many involve helping community members or organizations. Through the Office of Civic Engagements, UMD has established more than 80 community partnerships with organizations. The program places 2,000 students each year in the community to provide 30,000 hours of volunteer service.

Several students are involved in collegiate athletic programs. These programs bring communities together and support healthy lifestyles

Students attending UMD are pursuing degrees. If they don't maintain a 2.0 grade point average they're placed on academic probation for the next semester. If their grades don't improve, they are no longer allowed to attend UMD. In order to maintain a 2.0 GPA it is recommended we study two hours for every one hour we spend in class. The average student will spend 30 hours studying per week.

Attacks on college students in Duluth are unfair. We're students who are involved in the community, who participate in collegiate athletic programs and who strive for excellence in academics. UMD students bring valuable assets to the community that are irreplaceable and often overlooked.

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