



## News Release Chequamegon-Nicolet National Forest



07-22 For Immediate Release

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### **Blackwell Job Corps students partner with local artists to create 'Unity Mural'**

During the month of June students at the Blackwell Job Corps Civilian Conservation Center teamed up with Wabeno artists Tim and Connie Friesen to create a mural. The mural was designed by Blackwell students and the Friesens to promote unity among the diverse ethnic and cultural groups at Blackwell and in our society. According to the Friesens, such experiences "Bridge the gaps between members of a greater community; utilize art as a vehicle to transcend some community issues while enhancing, edifying, educating, and enlightening communities and youth."

The Blackwell Unity Mural Project was sponsored by the Blackwell JCCCC Intergroup Relations Committee, headed by Lorie Almazan, a counselor at Blackwell. According to Almazan, "Our students really enjoyed working on this important project. It really brought them together for a common goal. Every student was given the opportunity to participate in all aspects of the mural from concept, to design, and finally the masterpiece that will be treasured for years to come." Blackwell Center Director Jason Maloney added, "Projects like the Blackwell Unity Mural are an example of experiential education at its best. By working together designing and creating a mural like this one, our students work through a process that enables them to internalize the skills we all need to get along with other people in society. One of the most important things we can learn is how to get along with and appreciate people who are different from ourselves."

The mural, which measures 8 feet by 20 feet, will be displayed outside the Education Building on the Blackwell JCCCC Campus. The dedication of the mural is planned for late July.



While working on the mural, Elic Bankhead, a student from Madison who has been at Blackwell for nearly a year training to be a Union Painter said, "Blackwell is a pretty good place to get your career trade done if you can't pay for college."

Blackwell JCCCC offers federal scholarships for young adults under the age of 25. In addition to diversity training, students at Blackwell receive academic training that leads to completion of an HSED or High School Diploma as well as vocational training in Welding, Union Bricklaying and Tile setting, Union Carpentry, Union Construction Craft Laborer, Union Painting, Health Occupations (CNA), Business Technologies, and Electrician Training. For information on Blackwell JCCCC or to arrange a tour please call Penny McLaughlin at (715)674-7654. To fill out a free application for a Blackwell scholarship, please call Julie Eder at (715)359-7040.