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MRPA Member Named Top Undergraduate Student in Nation

Michigan State Graduate Honored by National Recreation and Park Association

[Okemos, Mich.] – Delton native Whitney Knollenberg has received the Outstanding Undergraduate Student award from the National Recreation and Park Association. A May 2009 graduate of Michigan State University, Knollenberg is an active member of both the Michigan Recreation and Park Association (MRPA) and the National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA).

The annual Outstanding Undergraduate Student award was granted to just one student in the United States. The competitive award is one component of the NRPA Student Branch Awards, which also include the Outstanding Student Club honor, awarded this year to Arkansas Tech University. Recipients of both awards are selected from top submissions from across the nation, and will be honored at the NRPA Congress and Exhibition, taking place October 13-16, 2009 in Salt Lake City, Utah.

During her time at Michigan State, Knollenberg was active with the Michigan Recreation and Park Association Student Committee, serving as the committee secretary and president. Knollenberg, who now holds a degree in Parks, Recreation and Tourism Resources, has also received the Rob Nagel Scholarship award from MRPA and the Charles E. Doell Student Leadership award from the MSU College of Agriculture and Natural Resources. In addition, Knollenberg completed a concentration in Commercial Recreation and Tourism, and a specialization in Environmental Studies, both from MSU.

Celebrating its 75th anniversary in 2010, the Michigan Recreation and Park Association provides advocacy, resources and professional development opportunities to a devoted and diverse membership. A non-profit statewide association, MRPA represents nearly 2,000 park and recreation professionals dedicated to creating community through people, parks and programs. For more information, visit www.mrpaonline.org.

Headquartered in Ashburn, VA, the National Recreation and Park Association is a national not-for-profit organization dedicated to advancing park, recreation and conservation efforts that enhance quality of life for all people. Through its' network of some 20,000 professionals and citizens, NRPA encourages the promotion of healthy lifestyles, recreation initiatives and conservation of natural and cultural resources. For more information, visit www.nrpa.org.