

Parks superintendent receives diversity leadership award

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Jon Gurban, superintendent of the Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board (MPRB), received the 2010 Pan-African Student Leadership Conference Award from the Office of Institutional Diversity at Minnesota State University, Mankato (MnSU). The award was presented at the April 7 meeting of the MPRB Board of Commissioners.

Gurban is honored as a pathfinder in the Park Board's journey into diversity and celebrating emerging African communities within Minneapolis," said Michael Fagin, Special Presidential Advisor at MnSU. "This award recognizes his contributions for providing culturally-sensitive programming and employment opportunities to meet the needs of a diverse Pan-African community."

"This award is an affirmation of what my parents taught me: That character is colorblind. I believe that talent is colorblind, too," Gurban said. "I'm proud of the diversity of our workforce and the ideas and commitment that they bring forward to make this a great system. This award is because of everything our staff does."

"We are proud of Mr. Gurban's achievement," said John Erwin, MPRB Board President. "The award is an honor to the entire park system as it illustrates our dedication to diversity in staff and programming."

The MPRB's commitment to diversity encourages cultural awareness, mutual respect and responsive decision-making in the workplace and within the communities it serves. It seeks to provide educational opportunities to staff through professional development, encourage multi-cultural programming at recreation centers throughout Minneapolis, and sponsor diversity-related events throughout the year.

MnSU's Office of Institutional Diversity seeks to create and maintain an environment that promotes cross-cultural understanding and appreciation for all members of the university community.