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Wittenberg Welcomes 2010 America In Bloom Judges To Campus

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Springfield, Ohio – Wittenberg University will welcome

judges of 2010 America in Bloom (AIB) to campus as "Springfield in Full Bloom," the local name for the nationwide competition, comes full-circle this week. Springfield organizers are participating in the competition in hopes that it will "help spread the message that Springfield is a great place to live, work, play and visit."

The 2010 AIB contest, a grassroots program connecting people to plants through education and participation in a community competition, officially began with the close of registration, Feb. 28. Springfield was pitted by population (50,000-100,000) against Bloomington, Ind., and Fayetteville, Ark. The 2010 AIB Symposium & Annual Awards program will be held Sept. 30 through Oct. 2 in St. Louis, Mo.

A visit to Wittenberg's historic, picturesque campus will be included in a driving tour through Springfield intended to highlight community elements from all eight judging criteria, including community involvement, floral displays, environmental awareness, heritage preservation, landscaped areas, tidiness, turf and ground covers, and urban forestry.

Ranked as one of the nation's most beautiful campuses by the *Princeton Review* in 2009, much of the credit for its appearance and maintenance goes to Wittenberg's Superintendent of Grounds Mark Goheen and his crew. With an associate degree in turf and landscape and a passion for all things green, Goheen began working at Wittenberg as a groundskeeper in June 1982 and was promoted to superintendent in April 1984.

"For us it's been 'business as usual,'" Goheen said. "We've been doing what we do every day to keep the place looking its best. People do judge a book by its cover, and we prepare daily for our prospective students and their families."

Noting that the heavy rains this summer have created challenges for his crew, Goheen added that a new perennial bed was installed as part of the Blair Hall renovation, and that the clearing on the Plum Street border of campus is a recent change.

"I was told they would be on campus July 9," Goheen said. "One of the judges on the panel is a certified arborist."

Goheen earned his credentials as a certified arborist through the local chapter of the International Society of Arboriculture in 2007.

*Written By: Phyllis Eberts
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