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SETTING THE (INTERNATIONAL) STANDARD

UMR is soon expected to achieve another first-this time in the arena of environmental management and safety. UMR is expected to become the first university in the United States to have its environmental management system registered to the international standard known as ISO 14001. By doing so, UMR will join the ranks of several Fortune 500 companies and other businesses that manage their environmental programs by this global standard.

ISO 14001 is an environmental management system standard created by the International Organization for Standardization. The standard is designed to ensure that organizations comply with all environmental regulations as well as show a commitment to pollution prevention and to continuously improving their impact on the environment. Achieving the ISO 14001 registration "is a significant accomplishment and one that could not have been realized without the support of all faculty, staff, and student employees on the UMR campus," **says Alice Beechner-Reeves**, EMgt'83, MS EMgt'92, PhD EMgt'98, president of Paragon Business Solutions, which served as the senior consultant for the certification project. Beechner-Reeves credits **Amy Gillman**, UMR's environmental management system coordinator, and the campus EMS (Environmental Management System) Steering Committee, chaired by **Harvest Collier**, associate dean of the College of Arts and Sciences, for implementing UMR's environmental management system campus wide.

The certification process has led to several benefits for UMR, including improved relations with regulatory agencies, improved compliance with environmental laws and regulations, an increased awareness of environmental issues among UMR faculty, staff and students, and cost savings due to better compliance and waste reduction efforts.

In addition, the campus created the UMR Institute for Environmental Excellence to share the campus's expertise with others. The institute's purpose is to continue the progress made toward environmental awareness and protection on campus, to support environmental research at UMR, to help integrate environmental management practices into UMR's curriculum, and to provide assistance to other campuses, businesses, local governments and other organizations wanting to improve their environmental management systems.

For more information about UMR's ISO 14001 registration or the Institute for Environmental Excellence, contact Amy Gillman at gillman@umr.edu, Harvest Collier at hcollier@umr.edu or Alice Beechner-Reeves at paragon@rollanet.org.