



EARTH University Named World's 'Third Greenest' University

Costa Rican university exhibits dedication to sustainable development and the environment

ATLANTA, September 18, 2007 – EARTH University Foundation announced today that Costa Rica's EARTH University ranks third on *Grist's* list of the top 15 green colleges and universities in the world, outranking Ivy League institutions on the list.

Grist is a nonprofit, independent, online magazine with a reputation for environmentally savvy journalism. *Grist's* selection process involved heavy research, expert analysis and consultation of other rankings to get a broad picture of green activities on the world's campuses.

Grist Senior Editor Lisa Hymas said, "*Grist* is committed to improving the environment and encouraging readers to think creatively about environmental problems and solutions. EARTH University certainly deserved recognition on our list, given its devotion to sustainable development and curriculum that focuses on teaching students hands-on skills to improve their communities and the broader environment."

EARTH University is located on an 8,200-acre campus in Costa Rica near the eastern coast. It is an agribusiness university uniquely committed to cultivating ethical leaders who will positively shape the direction of global environmental protection, business and sustainable development in the 21st century.

Grist also commended EARTH for its Rational Use of Resources Program, which aims to instill an environmental consciousness in everyone on campus by supporting practices that will limit the negative impact of its operation on the environment. Supported by academic research, EARTH aims to use resources rationally by planning, carrying out and monitoring projects in the following programs: integrated waste management; energy management and water resource management.

"Environmental awareness is at the heart of EARTH's mission, and we are honored to be recognized as one of the world's greenest institutions," said EARTH University President José Zaglul.

The other 14 institutions rounding out the list (www.grist.org) include College of the Atlantic, Middlebury College, The Evergreen State College, Oberlin College, Harvard University, University of British Columbia, Chico State, Tufts University, Leeds University, Green Mountain College, Aquinas College, Yale University, Glasgow University, and the University of Maryland. Runners-up include the University of New Hampshire and Stanford University.

EARTH is supported primarily through Atlanta-based EARTH University Foundation, whose Board Chair is Jane C. Black and whose Executive Director is Pat Fischer. In other EARTH news, the current Nobel Peace Prize laureate, recognized banker and economist Muhammad

Yunus will deliver the keynote address at the University's 15th graduation ceremony on December 7, 2007.

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About EARTH University

EARTH University (www.earth.ac.cr/index.php) is a private, international, non-profit university located in Costa Rica, dedicated to education in the field of agricultural sciences and the rational use of natural resources, with the interest of contributing to the sustainable development of the humid tropics. Founded in 1990, EARTH University has approximately 400 students from 23 countries in Latin America, Asia and Africa. In keeping with EARTH University's mission to affect change in the areas in greatest need of development, 80 percent of students are granted full or partial scholarship. The University has graduated nearly 1,200 professionals and has an international faculty composed of 44 professors from 20 countries.

EARTH University Foundation (www.earth-usa.org/), based in Atlanta, coordinates fundraising and special events for the University in the United States. Jane C. Black is Chairman of the Board of Trustees and Pat Fischer is the Executive Director.

About *Grist*

The nonprofit, independent, online magazine *Grist* was founded in April 1999, and over the past eight years has developed the most recognizable voice in environmental journalism: funny, opinionated, and intelligent. *Grist* offers in-depth reporting, opinions, book reviews, advice, and a popular blog -- all tailored to inform, entertain, provoke, and encourage its readers to think creatively about environmental problems and solutions. Each month, *Grist* reaches over 700,000 unique individuals through its website and emails, and it has enjoyed particular success among readers in their 20s and 30s. Through syndication arrangements with other media outlets like MSNBC.com and Salon.com, *Grist* is reaching an even broader audience that extends into the millions. *Grist* has been featured in *Vanity Fair*, the *New York Times*, *Newsweek*, and dozens of other national publications. *Grist* earned Webby™ People's Voice awards in both 2005 and 2006 as the internet's best magazine.

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