



## **U. of Maryland Chosen to Celebrate Tree Campus USA Anniversary; Students, Volunteers, Plant 215 Trees on Campus**

**College Park, Md. (Oct. 11, 2009)** – To commemorate the one-year anniversary of the Tree Campus USA program, the Arbor Day Foundation and Toyota teamed up with students and volunteers from the University of Maryland to plant trees on the College Park campus.

The University of Maryland was one of 29 schools recognized as a Tree Campus USA in 2008, the inaugural year of the program. In the fall of 2008, the Arbor Day Foundation began Tree Campus USA to recognize colleges and universities that practice sound campus forestry. The aim of the program is to honor college campuses and the leaders of surrounding communities for promoting healthy urban forest management and engaging the campus community in environmental stewardship.

Since its inception, Tree Campus USA has been supported by a total of \$1.3 million in grants from Toyota.

As a way of celebrating the first-year of Tree Campus USA, the Arbor Day Foundation and Toyota are holding tree-planting events on five college campuses this fall. In addition to the University of Maryland, Tree Campus USA tree-planting events will be held at Duke University, Cornell University, Tulane University and the University of Washington.

The University of Maryland's Tree Campus USA tree-planting event was organized locally by the Student Homecoming Committee and kicked off homecoming week on campus.

During the event, Maryland students and volunteers in the community planted 215 camellia trees near Tydings Hall as part of a plan to help reestablish and restore a historic camellia garden near the building. These trees will provide shade to the area, help filter dust from the air and add beauty to the campus.

“We applaud the University of Maryland’s commitment to improving the urban forest on its campus, and for demonstrating to students why it is so important to plant trees,” said John Rosenow, chief executive and founder of the nonprofit Arbor Day Foundation. “By striving to follow best tree-care practices and encouraging students to plant trees on campus, the University of Maryland is helping the next generation learn first-hand the importance of giving back to the earth.”

In order to become a Tree Campus USA community, schools are required to meet five core standards of tree care and community engagement. Those standards are: Establishing a campus tree advisory committee; evidence of a campus tree-care plan; verification of dedicated annual expenditures on the campus tree plan; involvement in an Arbor Day observance; and the institution of a service-learning project aimed at engaging the student body.

The University of Maryland was the first college or university in the state to be recognized as a Tree Campus USA.

“The camellia garden at Tydings Hall will add to the beauty of the landscape in the historic University of Maryland campus core while adding an impressive array of low-maintenance and attractive plants, many of which were developed through the career efforts of Dr. William Ackerman, research horticulturist with the nearby U.S. National Arboretum,” said Karen Petroff, manager of operations for Landscape Services at the University of Maryland. “The Ackerman hybrids are known for bringing the beauty of camellias, as well as their sustainable, easy care nature, to a more northern audience. This garden will reestablish and expand a previous camellia garden in the area, add to the use

of the campus landscape as an educational resource and bring attention as well to the tree preservation efforts in this oldest section of campus.”

“Toyota has been a proud partner of the Arbor Day Foundation since 2001,” said Patricia Pineda, group vice president of Toyota Motor North America. “The success of the first year of Tree Campus USA truly shows how the program is meeting the needs of the next generation of environmental stewards.”

More information about the Tree Campus USA program is available at [www.arborday.org/TreeCampusUSA](http://www.arborday.org/TreeCampusUSA).

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**About the Arbor Day Foundation:** The Arbor Day Foundation is a nonprofit conservation organization of nearly one million members, with a mission to inspire people to plant, nurture, and celebrate trees. More information on the Foundation and its programs can be found at [arborday.org](http://arborday.org).

**About Toyota**

Toyota (NYSE: TM) established operations in the United States in 1957 and currently operates 10 manufacturing plants. Toyota is committed to being a good corporate citizen in the communities where it does business and believes in supporting programs with long-term sustainable results. Toyota supports numerous organizations across the country, focusing on education, the environment and safety. Since 1991, Toyota has contributed more than \$464 million to philanthropic programs in the U.S.

For more information on Toyota's commitment to improving communities nationwide, visit [www.toyota.com/community](http://www.toyota.com/community).

**For more information, contact:**

Mark Derowitsch  
Arbor Day Foundation  
888-448-7337  
[mderowitsch@arborday.org](mailto:mderowitsch@arborday.org)

Daniel Sieger  
Toyota Motor North America  
212-715-7493  
[dsieger@tma.toyota.com](mailto:dsieger@tma.toyota.com)