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Emma Willard School Becomes Nation's First Fair Trade High School

Friday, November 19, 2010 - What high school student doesn't like ice cream and chocolate? Students at Emma Willard School can now eat both knowing that by enjoying these treats in Troy, NY, they are supporting individuals thousands of miles away in the developing world. Emma Willard is proud to announce it is the first high school in the nation to be awarded Fair Trade status.

“The decision to become a Fair Trade school was common sense; did we want to be a school that exploited or supported people? Fair Trade empowers people and communities,” said Natalia Choi, Emma Willard student and co-founder of student organization Slavery No More.

Fair Trade standards ensure that growers and producers receive fair compensation for their goods as well as community development funds for projects that provide access to education, health care, clean water and more. With consumer support, Fair Trade organizations campaign actively to change the rules of conventional international trade that may even rely upon child and slave labor.

As a Fair Trade institution, Emma Willard lives its core values of meaningful choice, community and relationships, ethical decision-making, and women’s perspectives by working with its contracted food services and school store to implement and maintain Fair Trade options in the school's dining facilities, at catered events, in its offices, and store.

“This accomplishment is precisely what comes of empowering young women to pursue their passion and commitment to making the world turn better. Our young women put their education to work on behalf of those whose voices need to be heard; they are living the mission of this school, serving and shaping their world,” said Trudy Hall, Head of School.

These Fair Trade offerings currently include ethically grown and harvested coffee, tea, sugar, rice, ice cream and chocolate, and jewelry and woven goods.

Student activists from Slavery No More will source new Fair Trade offerings for the school, and they will continue to co-host regular sales of products from Fair Trade Federation group members throughout the year. In addition, they will continue their ongoing peer education campaign about the plight of workers worldwide.

Emma Willard School, Empowering Girls Since 1814: For nearly 200 years, Emma Willard School has been one of the nation's leading all-girls' college preparatory boarding and day schools. At Emma Willard, every resource is dedicated to developing in students the values and skills vital to lives of **accomplishment**, **leadership**, and **fulfillment**. These include a love for the life of the mind, a commitment to service, courage and confidence, grace and creativity, and collaboration and friendship. www.emmawillard.org