

University of Minnesota Morris Digital Well

University of Minnesota Morris Digital Well

Campus News Archive

Campus News, Newsletters, and Events

6-28-2011

Professor Finzel to serve as interim dean

University Relations

Follow this and additional works at: https://digitalcommons.morris.umn.edu/urel_news

Recommended Citation

University Relations, "Professor Finzel to serve as interim dean" (2011). *Campus News Archive*. 659.
https://digitalcommons.morris.umn.edu/urel_news/659

This News Article is brought to you for free and open access by the Campus News, Newsletters, and Events at University of Minnesota Morris Digital Well. It has been accepted for inclusion in Campus News Archive by an authorized administrator of University of Minnesota Morris Digital Well. For more information, please contact skulann@morris.umn.edu.

Contact

Melissa Weber, Director of Communications
Phone: 320-589-6414, weberm@morris.umn.edu

Jenna Ray, Editor/Writer
Phone: 320-589-6068, jrray@morris.umn.edu

Professor Finzel to serve as interim dean

Summary: Finzel is honored to serve Morris, “one of the most remarkable stories in higher education.”

(June 28, 2011)-Growing up south of Detroit in the harsh economic climate of the 1970s, Bart Finzel always wanted to understand economics and use that knowledge to help working people become more resilient in times of economic change.

He followed that path as an educator for more than 25 years and is currently professor of economics and management at Morris. Now the newly appointed interim vice chancellor for academic affairs and dean wants to help the University through its own hard financial times by leveraging our exceptional human capital.

“Morris is one of the most remarkable stories in higher education,” Finzel says. He intends not to let that awareness get lost amid the budget woes hitting higher education as a whole. Instead, he advocates celebrating strengths and allowing them to carry us forward to new heights.

Finzel sought the position, he says, because people he respects encouraged him. And he has some specific ideas about where to begin. The dean’s role is to enable faculty to accomplish their objectives, Finzel insists, and his first priority will be to secure the resources and support they need to realize their goals. He embraces his two-year appointment as just enough time to propose an incremental, long-term vision and is counting on his “tenacious” nature to see his plans through.

“As a campus, we need to advocate more strongly for academic programs,” Finzel continues. “Our mission shouldn’t change, but we need to move forward.” Finzel also wants to begin a conversation about cooperation across disciplinary lines and how different disciplines relate.

Currently the Center for Small Towns interim director, Finzel has enjoyed working with the Morris community. “I really love Morris,” he enthuses, because small towns “can realize the agency of individuals.” Pivoting to the internal constituency will give him a panoramic perspective on the University’s place in the world.

Serving on the Morris faculty since earning a doctorate in economics from Cornell in 1989, Finzel has taught a host of economics courses ranging from labor economics to gender economics to environmental economics, as well as management courses. He helped develop Morris’s curriculum for the multi-institution Mellon Foundation funded Global Issues Honors Consortium, for which he served as faculty coordinator.

The recipient of several research grants, he also holds the all-University Horace T. Morse—University of Minnesota Alumni Association Award for Outstanding Contributions to Undergraduate Education Award and the University of Minnesota, Morris Alumni Association Teaching Award.

Through personal and academic discovery, the University of Minnesota, Morris provides opportunities for students to grow intellectually, engage in community, experience environmental stewardship and celebrate diversity. A renewable and sustainable educational experience, Morris prepares graduates for careers, for advanced degrees, for lifelong learning, for work world flexibility in the future, and for global citizenship. Learn more about Morris at morris.umn.edu or call 888-866-3382.