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Morris faculty and graduates serve on advisory committee for University of Minnesota president search

Summary: Professor Nancy Carpenter, Ety DeVeaux '86, and Carol Person '73 are honored to help identify the next University president.

(June 16, 2010)-The University of Minnesota Board of Regents named 12 people—students, faculty, staff, alumni, and community members—to serve on an advisory committee to help identify the University's next president. Included are three members with ties to the University of Minnesota, Morris (UMM): Nancy Carpenter, professor of chemistry, Ety DeVeaux, a 1986 graduate, and Carol Person, a 1973 graduate.

Professor Nancy Carpenter

Carpenter accepted the appointment to serve as a voice for coordinate campuses and as an advocate for undergraduate education and the liberal arts.

"I care deeply about this institution [UMM] and think that our campus AND the University of Minnesota are very important to our community, region, and state," she says. "I've learned from my service on the all-University Faculty Consultative Committee how important it is that the University president has a broad view of the entire system. I'm glad they asked someone from a coordinate campus to serve and am honored to do so. I will bring my commitment to the liberal arts and undergraduate education to the table, as I consider these key to the future and continuing success of the University of Minnesota."

Ety DeVeaux '86

DeVeaux serves as administrative director for the Department of Plant Biology and Department of Ecology, Evolution and Behavior College of Food, Agricultural and Natural Resource Sciences, and College of Biological Sciences on the Twin Cities campus.

"In 1982, I anxiously awaited acceptance as an international student to Morris," she remembers. "A few years later, addressing my fellow graduates at Commencement, I reflected on the University's mission the importance of our work to the state, the world, really and how the work we do and this place draws you in, how its gets into one's blood. I asked the soon-to-be alums to think about what the University had given to us and how we might give back. I could not have imagined then that I would give back in this way, to help select our 16th University president. The opportunity to help identify an able leader to build on our strong foundation, advance excellence in positioning the University for the future, and care for and cultivate resources for the betterment of our University in achieving its core missions—someone who is not intimidated by the challenges—is an honor I accepted without reservation. This is a great University. The Twin Cities is a great community. We will attract a great pool, and I look forward to working with the Advisory Committee in presenting the most outstanding candidates to the Board of Regents."

Carol Person '73

Person's role on the advisory committee reflects a long family relationship with the University.

“My ties to the University of Minnesota run deep,” she shares. “My husband and I are both Class of 1973 graduates of UMM. My husband is a graduate of the University’s medical school. My son is a student at the University of Minnesota, Duluth. We know the University is a tremendous asset that represents Minnesotans’ commitment to education. I’m honored to be able to be a small part of helping to shape the direction of the University. I want a great University to keep getting better and better!” Person is a retired Minnesota District Court Sixth Judicial District judge from Duluth.

The committee also includes:

Patricia Simmons, chair and regent,

David Bernlohr, Distinguished McKnight University Professor and head, Department of Biochemistry, Molecular Biology, and Biophysics, Joint Department of the Medical School and College of Biological Sciences,

Marti Hope Gonzales, associate professor, Department of Psychology, College of Liberal Arts,

Elliot Kaplan, attorney and partner, Robins, Kaplan, Miller and Ciresi,

Ryan Kennedy '09, bachelor of arts, political science, College of Liberal Arts, candidate, master of public policy, Humphrey Institute of Public Affairs,

Richard Leppert, Regents Professor and Morse Alumni Award for Undergraduate Education recipient, Department of Cultural Studies and Comparative Literature, College of Liberal Arts,

Allen Levine, dean and professor, College of Food, Agriculture and Natural Resource Sciences, and director, Minnesota Obesity Center,

Bruce Mooty, attorney and principal, Gray Plant Mooty and Eric Sheppard Regents Professor, Department of Geography College of Liberal Arts.

President Bruininks to step down

University of Minnesota President Robert Bruininks will step down in summer 2011. He plans to rejoin the faculty and return to the classroom. Bruininks has served the University for 40 years as professor, dean, executive vice president, provost, and as president since 2002.

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.