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Listen to Louisiana Gov. Blanco Address

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Listen to Louisiana Gov. Blanco Address

Summary: The Honorable Kathleen Babineaux Blanco, governor of Louisiana, gave the Opening Convocation for students participating in the 2006 First Year Seminar at the University of Minnesota, Morris Tues., Sept. 5. Click [here](http://www.morris.umn.edu/media/transfer/Blanco/BlancoSpeech.mp3) to listen to the address.

(August 18, 2006)-The Honorable Kathleen Babineaux Blanco, governor of Louisiana, gave the Opening Convocation for students participating in the 2006 First Year Seminar at the University of Minnesota, Morris Tues., Sept. 5.

Click [here](#) to listen to the address.

Gov. Blanco was originally scheduled to present the convocation for 2005 First Year Seminar students. However, due to the tragedy of Hurricane Katrina, her visit to UMM was postponed. This year's visit was closely aligned with the first anniversary of the devastation of Hurricane Katrina. Following last year's hurricane, 14 UMM students traveled 30 hours by van to spend their 2006 spring break in Slidell, La., to help with Hurricane Katrina cleanup efforts.

Blanco became the first woman to serve as governor of Louisiana in January 2004. In her long, distinguished career, she has served the people with a vision of creating a new Louisiana, filled with hope and opportunity for all citizens.

As governor, her top priorities include providing affordable, accessible healthcare, improving the state's education system, and creating a strong and vibrant economy.

In her inaugural address, Blanco outlined her priorities as governor: "We face important challenges in this new century: expanding our economy and creating quality jobs building an effective health care system improving our roads and highways rebuilding our coastline protecting our farmers and ensuring that all our citizens, no matter their age, have superior educational opportunities."

Blanco believes that Louisiana's challenges can only be met "if we have the courage and wisdom to pursue a new and different path." That, she says, means striking "a hopeful chord -- one that unites our people in lifting up all Louisiana families one that cherishes our children, protects our environment, and creates new economic opportunity for all our citizens."

Gov. Blanco is the mother-in-law of Michael Eble, assistant professor of studio art and curator of the Humanities Fine Arts Gallery at UMM.

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