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University Relations

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**UMM is #3 in the nation, says U.S. News & World Report**

*Summary:*

(August 22, 2003)-The University of Minnesota, Morris has been named one of the top three public liberal arts colleges in the nation by U.S. News & World Report in its 2004 rankings of America's Best Colleges. UMM was the only public college in the Midwest to achieve this status.

"The rankings validate what our students, faculty, staff, graduates and supporters already know -- that Morris is an extraordinary value for students seeking the very best liberal arts education possible in an intense and intimate academic environment," said UMM Chancellor Sam Schuman. "This ranking says that students interested in a superior liberal arts education owe it to themselves and their budgets to take a serious look at Morris."

UMM's No. 3 national ranking is one step higher than last year's U.S. News ranking, and two higher than the 2002 rankings. Other public colleges included in the top five listing of public liberal arts colleges were: Virginia Military Institute, St. Mary's College of Maryland, the University of North Carolina-Asheville, and Richard Stockton College of New Jersey. The University of Minnesota, Morris was one of 21 public liberal arts colleges chosen for the "America's Best Colleges" national liberal arts list, which numbers 217.

Among criteria that the rankings considered, 98 percent of UMM's faculty are full-time, and only 6 percent of its classes number more than 50 students. Sixty-eight percent of the courses have fewer than 20 students. Student to faculty ratio at UMM is 14:1.

With 44% of freshmen in the top 10% of their class, UMM occupies the third highest ranking in its tier. Freshman academic profile is a key quality indicator, which UMM has consistently demonstrated throughout its 40-year history. In addition to rigorous academic programs, UMM students experience a full and distinctive quality campus life.

"UMM offers astonishing value, both in terms of the quality of education and its cost," Schuman noted. "At \$6,900 annual tuition, we offer tens of thousands of dollars of savings over the other highest ranked liberal arts colleges in the Midwest."

UMM's mission as an academically rigorous, public undergraduate liberal arts college is distinctive. Declared "a model liberal arts college" by The Commission on Institutions of Higher Education of the North Central Association of Colleges and Schools in its recent reaccreditation report, UMM's goal is to be the best public liberal arts college in America.

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](http://morris.umn.edu) or call 888-866-3382.