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UMM Finishes Campaign Well Above Goal

Summary:

(August 18, 2003)-"A powerful finish to a remarkable campaign," is how University of Minnesota, Morris Chancellor Sam Schuman describes the recent conclusion of a multi-year fundraising campaign to benefit UMM students, faculty, and staff. As part of the all University of Minnesota's Campaign Minnesota, UMM has raised over \$9.5 million in private gifts from donors in its first ever comprehensive campaign, surpassing its original campaign goal by 160%. The Campaign Minnesota grand total will be announced at a press conference at 11:00 a.m. on Sept. 10 in the McNamara Alumni Center in Minneapolis.

"We have seen UMM make its case for philanthropy in a way that no one imagined," stated Schuman. "Funds from the campaign will enable us to increase scholarships, promote staff development, and help faculty have the needed tools to do their best teaching and research," Schuman continued. "UMM has been important in the past, but will be essential tomorrow. The need for informed, thoughtful, independent and creative citizens of our region, nation, and world, has never been higher."

According to Associate Vice Chancellor for External Relations Maddy Maxeiner, who serves as the campus' chief development officer, the campaign total includes over \$3.6 million for scholarships, \$2.5 million for academic program support, and nearly \$1.4 million for faculty and staff support. One million dollars from private agencies and foundations are also counted in the total. The total includes gifts, pledges, and bequests for both endowed and expendable funds.

"The campaign's success is really a tribute to the donors who believe in our mission and who want to see the campus succeed," stated Maxeiner. "We owe a great deal of thanks to the passion of our campaign leaders, especially our co-chairs John Dayton (UMM '68) and Bob Gandrud (UMM '65), as well as to the committee chairs and of course our entire External Relations staff."

The campaign impact includes a 300% increase in available scholarship dollars. A new Rural Students Scholarship Fund is launched with gifts, pledges, and testamentary commitments of over \$1.3 million. The Campaign also created UMM's first endowed professorship, the UMM Distinguished Visiting Professorship in the Liberal Arts, funded with a blend of \$1 million in gifts and matching funds from the Permanent University Fund.

Maxeiner notes that average yearly philanthropic giving to UMM has increased by 400% as a result of the Campaign. Membership in the Presidents Club, the University's recognition society for major donors, has doubled. "As we look ahead to how we will better serve our students and enrich our regional communities, we celebrate the campaign's conclusion with a great sense of gratitude and responsibility to the future."

"During a time of serious economic austerity in public higher education, and as tuition continues to rise, private gifts play an increasingly important role in the life of the institution," explained Maxeiner. "As a public institution, philanthropy will not solve our budget woes. Nearly 80% of our operating budget is needed for compensation.

However, private dollars mean the difference between good and excellent, affordable or out of reach."

"I have faith that education is the best hope of the world, and that nobody does it better than UMM," concludes Schuman. "But a college is about becoming, not about achieving, and we must never rest on our laurels. We should pause a while to share our joy at how much progress we have made, then look to the promises we have to keep."

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.