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State of U address presented at UMM

Summary: U of M President Robert Bruininks presented the 2006 State of the University address at UMM on March 2. If you missed this historic event—the first State of the U delivered at a coordinate campus—listen to a recording.

(March 3, 2006)-President Robert Bruininks began his annual State of the University address at the University of Minnesota, Morris with a clear, concise statement: “Morris is one of the finest public liberal arts colleges in the country.” The event, which took place on Thursday, March 2, 2006, marked the first time in the University’s history that the address was presented from a coordinate campus. As Sam Schuman, UMM chancellor stated, UMM was “pleased and proud” to welcome President Bruininks. It was an honor for the campus to host the State of the University address, and a wonderful affirmation for the UMM students who invited President Bruininks.

Bruininks began his address by recognizing Sam Schuman, who will retire as chancellor at the end of the academic year, and Nancy Schuman for their many contributions to UMM and to the University of Minnesota. He then shared his vision for the University’s future with the several hundred guests in attendance in UMM’s Proscenium Theatre and hundreds of members of the University community who watched the address via closed circuit television from the Twin Cities, Duluth, Crookston and Rochester.

The University’s overall goal for the near future is to become one of the top three research universities in the world within the next decade. To accomplish that goal, the University has identified, through the Transforming the U strategic positioning process, areas of strength upon which the University will focus. Many of the Universitywide undergraduate initiatives that Bruininks identified are already central to UMM’s mission, such as the Undergraduate Research Opportunity Program, service-learning programs, and enhanced academic experiences for first year students that include writing experiences across the curriculum, academic career advising and mentoring, and First-Year Seminar.

Bruininks also addressed the issue of accessibility, noting in particular that two recently established initiatives are already having positive affects on students throughout the University: The Promise of Tomorrow scholarship program and the Founders Opportunity Award. Both of these programs provide financial assistant to University of Minnesota students, including UMM students.

Bruininks outlined four major areas of immediate emphasis: diversity, internationalization, stewardship of resources, and interdisciplinary work. The West Central Research and Outreach Center and UMM’s partnership in two efforts—wind energy and biomass—were frequently mentioned by Bruininks as outstanding examples of planning for the future and building on the strengths and needs of the State of Minnesota.

In closing, Bruininks thanked UMM for the hospitality extended to him and his wife, Susan Hagstrom, and especially thanked the UMM students who invited him. He stated that there is no more important gift that one can give to a young man or woman than a liberal arts education.

If you missed this exciting campus happening, you can [listen](#) to President Bruininks’ recorded address online.

You will need to install RealPlayer from Real Networks to listen to the address. If you do not have Real Player, it can be downloaded free [here](#).

A video recording is also available for [viewing](#).

Photo: President Bruininks giving State of U Address at UMM by Andy Geyer '07, Virginia.

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.