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Lieutenant Governor to Speak at UMN Morris Commencement

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Lieutenant Governor to Speak at UMN Morris Commencement

[Lieutenant Governor Peggy Flanagan](#) will serve as the [2020 Commencement](#) speaker at the University of Minnesota Morris. All are welcome to attend on Saturday, May 16.

"We are honored that Lieutenant Governor Flanagan has accepted our students' invitation to speak at this year's commencement ceremony," says Chancellor Michelle Behr. "Throughout her public service, she has been a champion for education, and her dedication to inclusion and equity mirrors ours and that of our graduates."

About Lt. Governor Peggy Flanagan

Peggy Flanagan is a mom, member of the White Earth Band of Ojibwe, and Minnesota's 50th Lieutenant Governor. Her career is built on standing up for children, families, communities of color, Native communities, and low-income and working folks.

A St. Louis Park native, Peggy attended St. Louis Park Public Schools and graduated from the University of Minnesota with a degree in Child Psychology and American Indian Studies. She first ran for political office in 2004 and won a seat on the Minneapolis School Board. Peggy also worked for nearly a decade at Wellstone Action, where she trained tens of thousands of activists, community advocates, and elected officials and candidates – including future Governor Tim Walz.

Later, she was Executive Director of Children's Defense Fund-Minnesota, a non-profit child-advocacy organization working to level the playing field for all Minnesota children. Peggy was elected to the Minnesota House of Representatives in 2015, where she served as the DFL lead on the Subcommittee on Child Care Access and Affordability and joined with other DFL legislators to form the People of Color and Indigenous (POCI) caucus to improve opportunities for people of color and Indigenous communities across the state.

Peggy brings this lifelong experience of building coalitions and advocating for children and families to the Lieutenant Governor's Office, as she works in close partnership with Governor Tim Walz to build One Minnesota.

About Commencement

Commencement will be held on Saturday, May 16, at 1:30 p.m. on the campus mall. The public is invited to attend the ceremony or to watch it streamed online at morris.umn.edu. Learn more at morris.umn.edu/commencement.