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UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA MORRIS

Rickey Hall will serve as UMN Morris commencement speaker

University of Washington Vice President of Minority Affairs and University Diversity Officer Rickey Hall has accepted our students' invitation to serve as the commencement speaker for the University of Minnesota Morris on Saturday, May 14.

Hall has over 20 years of experience in higher education, including serving as director of the Multi-Ethnic Student Program at UMN Morris from 1998-2002. Hall took on that role when Bill Stewart retired after 25 years in it, and like Stewart, Hall brought to the position a deep dedication to student success as well energy, creativity, and a strong background in working with students from diverse and under-served backgrounds.

"We are delighted that Rickey Hall accepted our invitation to speak at this year's commencement ceremony," says Acting Chancellor Janet Schrunk Ericksen. "During his tenure at UMN Morris, the Multi-Ethnic Resource Center was named one as one of the 'Top Ten Departments to Work for at the U,' in no small part because of Rickey's commitment to support student success and enhance diversity-related teaching and learning across campus."

About the speaker

Hall is involved with a number of national organizations including the National Association of Diversity Officers in Higher Education and the Association of Public Land-Grant Universities Commission on Access, Diversity and Excellence. Hall came to the University of Washington after serving as the inaugural vice chancellor for diversity and inclusion at the University of Tennessee, Knoxville for three years. Prior to that role, he served for six years as the assistant vice president for equity and diversity at the University of Minnesota. Hall was awarded the 2015 Unity in the Community Award from HoLa Hora Latina (Knoxville, Tenn.) and selected as an American College Personnel Association Educational Leadership Foundation 2015 Diamond Honoree. He earned a bachelor's degree in American studies and a master's degree in higher education, both from the University of Iowa.

About commencement

Commencement will be held on Saturday, May 14, at 1 p.m. on the campus mall. In the event of inclement weather, the ceremony will be held in the Cougar Sports Center. The public is invited to attend the ceremony or to watch it streamed online at morris.umn.edu/commencement. Learn more at morris.umn.edu/commencement.