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UMN Morris, Baitursynuly University Launch Partnership

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UMN Morris, Baitursynuly University launch partnership

(October 23, 2024) University of Minnesota Morris Chancellor Janet Schrunk Ericksen and Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs and Dean Jordan Cofer recently traveled to Kazakhstan to meet with officials from Baitursynuly University (also known as A.Baitursynov Kostanay State University) and, at the invitation of the Minister of Science and Higher Education, Sayasat Nurbek, to participate in a national conference on higher education in Kazakhstan.

In September and with the support and participation of Minister Nurbek, UMN Morris and Baitursynuly University (BU) signed a memorandum of understanding that will bring BU students to Morris for classes beginning in 2026 as part of a dual degree program. Students in the program will earn a bachelor's degree in Computer Science from UMN Morris and a bachelor's in Computer Engineering from BU.

Prior to arriving on the UMN Morris campus, BU students will take online courses taught by UMN Morris to help prepare them to spend their third year in Morris, where they will take courses in Computer Science and in other areas to fulfill UMN Morris general education requirements.

Ericksen believes both universities will benefit from this arrangement and plans to send UMN Morris faculty to Kostanay in the future, for short term teaching or even for a semester, and she looks forward to welcoming leaders and faculty from BU to Morris in the next year or two.

Dr. Seitbek Kuanyshbayev, rector (president) of BU, stated that the cooperation opens up new opportunities for access to world-class knowledge and experience for BU students.

Baitursynuly University is a regional multidisciplinary university located in Kostanay, in northern Kazakhstan.

Founded in 1960, the University of Minnesota Morris is a nationally ranked top 10 public liberal arts university dedicated to its students and the environment. Learn more at morris.umn.edu or call 888-866-3382.



Pictured are (left to right) Nagima Manasbayeva, head of International Cooperation Office, Baitursynuly University; Seitbek Kuanyshbayev, Rector, Baitursynuly University; Sayasat Nurbek, Minister of Science and Higher Education of the Republic of Kazakhstan; Janet Ericksen, Chancellor, UMN Morris; Jordan Cofer, Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs and Dean, UMN Morris; and Aisulu Abdybayeva, Catalina Global.

Leaders from both institutions met online to formalize the partnership.

