

# UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA MORRIS

*The Morris campus has a distinctive history. In the late 1800s, the campus housed an American Indian boarding school, first operated by the Catholic Order of the Sisters of Mercy and later by the U.S. government. In 1909, the school closed and the campus was given to the State of Minnesota with the stipulation that American Indian students could attend school on the campus tuition free, a tradition that still holds true today. In 1909, the University of Minnesota established the West Central School of Agriculture boarding high school on the campus. By the late 1950s, a group of west central area citizens formed the West Central Educational Development Association, which lobbied the legislature for the creation of a liberal arts college within the University system to be established in Morris. On September 26, 1960, UMM opened its doors. Nearly 12,000 UMM graduates have gone on to lead successful lives in communities around the world, occupying careers in teaching, law, business, the arts and sciences, agriculture, and public service.*

## **Nationally Recognized**

- The Commission on Institutions of Higher Education of the North Central Association of Colleges and Schools declares UMM “a model liberal arts college.”
- UMM rivals the top private liberal arts colleges in selectivity, academic rigor, and educational opportunities—at a public school price. The annual cost for tuition, fees, and room and board for 2007-2008 is \$15,702. Ninety-one percent of UMM students received financial aid in 2005-06.
- UMM is repeatedly designated as “Best in the Midwest” in *The Princeton Review’s* survey of college students.
- UMM has advanced sustainable, environmentally friendly initiatives since Earth Day 2000. UMM is a national leader in these efforts that now touch nearly all aspects of campus life—power, food, water, transportation, waste-stream infrastructure, academic study, and quality of life. Partnerships with University of Minnesota programs and a multitude of organizations, neighbors, and friends have been essential in this work. State and national resources have advanced these collective efforts. In 2007, Chancellor Jacqueline Johnson signed the American College & University Presidents Climate Commitment.
- UMM is consistently ranked among the top 100 colleges nationally as a best value for both in-state and out-of-state students by the Kiplinger Best Values in Public Colleges annual survey.

## **Our Community**

- According to the most recent Cooperative Institutional Research Program survey conducted by the University of California, Los Angeles, 84 percent of UMM students engage in volunteerism.
- An allocation of Clean Renewable Energy Bonds (CREBs) will allow UMM to purchase two additional wind turbines—one of them in partnership with the Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe.
- UMM is a partner in shared facilities and initiatives such as: the Regional Fitness Center, a cooperative effort between the campus, the community, and the county; Big Cat Stadium, a football facility used by both the Morris Area School District and UMM; and the Green Prairie Alliance, a local collaboration which includes the USDA Agricultural Research Service-North Central Soil Conservation Research Lab, the University of Minnesota West Central Research and Outreach Center, and UMM. Other partners include the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources and local farmers.
- Currently, 50 percent of UMM students participate in Service Learning, halfway to the campus goal of 100 percent participation. Service Learning is a classroom experience that utilizes community service, community-based research, or other civic engagement activities along with regular reflection to meet course goals and community needs.
- Together, the Center for Small Towns at the University of Minnesota, Morris and the City of Morris received the prestigious Carter Partnership Award for Campus-Community Collaboration in November 2006.

### **Distinguished Faculty**

- UMM claims the highest percentage of recipients within the University of Minnesota system of the prestigious Horace T. Morse University of Minnesota Alumni Association Award for Outstanding Contributions to Undergraduate Education.
- UMM faculty are dedicated to undergraduate teaching excellence and collaboratively conduct scholarly activities and research with their students. Ninety-eight percent of UMM's tenured and tenure-track faculty hold a doctorate or highest degree in their field.
- All UMM classes are taught by professors, not by graduate assistants.

### **Outstanding Students and Alumni**

- The UMM student body is comprised of about 1,700 students representing 23 different states and 14 different countries. In fall 2007, UMM's student body included students from nearly every county in Minnesota. Almost 40 percent of UMM students are from the Twin Cities seven-county metro area.
- UMM attracts academically outstanding students. Twenty-five percent of 2007 freshmen graduated in the top 10 percent of their high school class. The median ACT composite score of the 2007 freshmen class is 25.
- UMM's current student population includes about 17 percent students of color, with American Indian and Asian ethnic backgrounds comprising the largest segments. UMM has the highest proportion of students of color among University of Minnesota campuses.
- Among UMM alumni who have made their mark are: Rachel L. Brand, attorney, WilmerHale, Washington, D.C.; Hon. Carol Eckersen, workers compensation judge; Hon. Lorie Skjerven Gildea, Minnesota Supreme Court associate justice; Bruce Helmer, WCCO radio; Bruce Johnson, president and CEO of Porchlight Entertainment; Carolina Pallares, United States border patrol agent.

*"The UMM community is one in which you have many opportunities to interact and work with your professors and really get to know them. The academics are challenging, but definitely achievable because the professors are very willing to work with you and help you succeed."*

—Steven Harren '10, biology, secondary education, Eagle Bend

*"The faculty at UMM were excellent at helping me plan my career and helping me through the pre-medical school path. Because of UMM, I was one of the most prepared students in medical school."*

—Stacey Luetmer '94, M.D., Alexandria

*"My husband, Sid, and I love the youth and vitality that the UMM students bring to the city. We live two blocks from campus and enjoy interacting with the students as they walk by our house on their way to classes. Many students are employed by businesses in Morris, and their enthusiasm as they interact with the local population is very much appreciated."*

—Carol Wilcox, former mayor, Morris

To learn more, visit: [www.morris.umn.edu](http://www.morris.umn.edu)

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