



UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA MORRIS

A renewable, sustainable education.

Chancellor Jacqueline Johnson

Following a national search, Jacqueline R. “Jacquie” Johnson assumed her appointment as chancellor of the University of Minnesota, Morris, the campus’ fifth chief administrative officer, on August 1, 2006.

“I am honored to have been selected as the chancellor of the University of Minnesota, Morris, and I look forward to serving the University community, the town of Morris and the region. I have known of Morris’s excellent reputation as a public liberal arts college for a long time and my visit to campus confirmed my very positive impressions. The quality of students, faculty and staff and their dedication to the University’s mission is clear. Schools like Morris are, in my opinion, the very best setting for the educational experiences students need in the 21st century. It will truly be a privilege for me to work within this context to further advance Morris’s reputation and mission.”

- Jacquie Johnson



Photo by Patrick O’Leary, University Relations, Twin Cities

Jacqueline Johnson’s Background

Jacqueline Johnson is the fifth, and the first female, chancellor of the University of Minnesota, Morris, a position she has held since August 2006. She earned a bachelor’s degree (cum laude, with departmental honors) at Macalester College in St. Paul and master’s and doctorate degrees in sociology at Purdue University in West Lafayette, Indiana. Johnson began her career as a faculty member and administrator at Grand Valley State University in Allendale, Michigan, where she was a founding member of the Women’s Commission and the Grand Rapids Women’s Historical Society. Her first administrative appointment in higher education was as chief academic officer at Saint Martin’s College in Lacey, Washington (1998-2002). Before joining the Morris community, she served as vice president for academic affairs and dean of faculty at Buena Vista University in Storm Lake, Iowa (2002-2006). In addition to serving on numerous local boards in the communities in which she has resided, Dr. Johnson has been a participant in several national projects and panels related to higher education. She initiated student and faculty exchange efforts with China at both Saint Martin’s College and Buena Vista University and is author or co-author of a number of funded grant projects. Her research interests include a project in partnership with a colleague from the Krakow Academy of Economics, Krakow, Poland, which uses children’s art work to explore their perceptions of political culture. Johnson is married and has five children.

“I’m most excited about the opportunities to build on our legacy and create a future in which we expand and strengthen our role as a public, liberal arts honors college, committed to developing and using renewable energy sources, serving the region as an economic, environmental and educational resource. It’s clear to me that I have joined a vibrant academic community, one sure of itself in terms of its commitments and mission, and one sure to advance to the next stages of excellence.”

About the University of Minnesota, Morris

The University of Minnesota, Morris, one of the University's five campuses, is named one of the top five public liberal arts colleges in the nation by U.S. News & World Report in its 2007 rankings of America's Best Colleges. Declared a model liberal arts college by the North Central Association of Colleges and Schools in its recent re-accreditation report, Morris's mission as an affordable, undergraduate college complements its small, residential atmosphere.

Our History

- **American Indian Boarding School:** From the late 1880s until 1909, the campus housed an American Indian boarding school, first operated by the Catholic order Sisters of Mercy and later by the United States 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 the next school to inhabit the campus—the West Central School of Agriculture—tuition free. A tradition which still holds true today.
- **West Central School of Agriculture:** In 1909, the University of Minnesota established the West Central School of Agriculture (WCSA) high school on the campus. WCSA offered classes in home economics, business, industrial arts and agriculture. WCSA was an education center for western Minnesota providing workshops and educational programs for members of the community and region.
- **West Central Educational Development Association:** By the late 1950s, the University of Minnesota began discussing the closing of its high schools. A group of west central area citizens began promoting the establishment of college level courses on the Morris campus. They formed the West Central Educational Development Association, which lobbied the legislature for the creation of a distinct liberal arts college within the U of M system to be established in Morris.
- **The University of Minnesota, Morris:** On September 26, 1960, opened its doors to 238 students and began its journey to becoming "America's best public liberal arts college." The college continues to honor its commitment to educating qualified American Indian students free of tuition charges. Today, nearly 12,000 Morris graduates lead successful lives in communities around the world, occupying careers in teaching, law, business, the arts and sciences, agriculture and public service.



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