



UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA

Driven to Discover®

Crookston Duluth Morris Rochester Twin Cities

Message from the Office of the President

April 3, 2023 — Sent Systemwide

Dear students, faculty, and staff,

Over these last four years, there have been many difficult messages to send and share, but this one is uniquely challenging. This morning, I informed the Board of Regents that I will be leaving the University to become the 19th Chancellor at the University of Pittsburgh beginning this July.

Serving as your President has been the greatest honor of my career, and it has been especially humbling to together navigate one of the most impactful and consequential chapters in the University's 170-year history. From the pain of a global pandemic and the resounding call for social justice, to the excitement of establishing and implementing MPact 2025, the University's first comprehensive systemwide strategic plan and its record-setting outcomes, the initial view I shared about the University in my inaugural address has only been affirmed. The University is an institution that has never been one for shortcuts or settling for less, for those who prefer leisure over grit, or who seek form without substance. And, as your President over the last 1,300 plus days, it has been the utmost privilege to witness this Minnesota spirit through every storm and season.

U.S. Admiral Arthur William Radford said: "Half of art is knowing when to stop." I write to you today with mixed emotions about my stop; on one hand, to express enthusiasm about this opportunity, from where they are and can be, to my own familial connections there. Yet, on the other, to express how bittersweet it is to leave so many wonderful friends, learners, leaders, and discoverers, and the best colleagues one could hope to know.

To our students, faculty, and staff, our passionate supporters and alumni across our state and around the world, and to our Board of Regents and its leader, Chair Ken Powell, it is because of our shared work that we have elevated and strengthened the University System, ensuring that from Crookston to Duluth, Morris to Rochester and the Twin Cities, the University of Minnesota's best days lie ahead.

It is in this same spirit that I look forward to working with the Board of Regents on a smooth transition, and to relishing in all that each of you will do to change the world in the years ahead.

With gratitude,

Joan Gabel
President