



## **UMAA Statement on the Board of Regents Elections**

**Motion: UMAA urges state lawmakers to build a holistic board that reflects the diverse perspectives of the University community and the state.**

The twelve-member Board of Regents is the governing body of the University of Minnesota, and its leadership drives the University's success and impact on the state, nation, and world. The University of Minnesota, founded in the belief that all people are enriched by understanding, is dedicated to the advancement of learning, the search for truth, and the sharing of knowledge through education.

The University of Minnesota Alumni Association (UMAA) which serves a global population of 485,000 Twin Cities campus alumni, of which 61% live in Minnesota, has a vested interest in ensuring that the Board of Regents is comprised of visionary leaders who are committed to the long-term success of the University, which is currently ranked as the 8th most active public research university in the nation.

During a time of leadership transition at the University of Minnesota, and with four open Regent positions, the UMAA urges all state legislators to carefully consider the qualities of individual Regent candidates with a holistic view recognizing that diversity brings strength to the Board. Effective boards draw from a wide range of perspectives and should reflect the communities they lead. Currently, 51% of students system-wide are female and 18% are students of color.

It's vital that the State Legislature elect the best qualified Regents possible to advance the University of Minnesota. The UMAA endorses the following attributes for successful candidates:

- Leaders of unquestioned integrity who have a deep commitment to public higher education, and who embrace the role of the University of Minnesota in serving the people of the state.
- Open and inclusive decision-makers who respect varying backgrounds and views, value equity and diversity, demonstrate steadfast support for freedom of speech, and will work in consultation with members of the University community to develop common ground.
- A commitment to student and faculty success and unfettered inquiry in the classroom and in research, and who are driven to build upon the academic and research excellence that makes the University of Minnesota the state's leading higher education institution and has distinguished it as one of the nation's preeminent public universities.
- A demonstrated record of board governance experience and the ability to understand and lead complex organizations.
- Visionary leaders with the ability to collaborate with the University President and other Board members on strategic policy issues to advance the University's three-part land-grant mission.