



UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA  
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## Office of the President-Designate

Dear colleagues,

Over the past few months, it has been my great privilege to visit with so many of you as I prepare to assume the presidency of the University of Minnesota on July 1. I have particularly valued the opportunity to work closely with Executive Vice President and Provost Karen Hanson. As I have heard underscored in my conversations with you, Karen's leadership has driven tremendous academic success and progress. Her work is a key component of the foundation upon which we will build an exciting future for our university.

Last fall, Provost Hanson announced to the University community her intention to step down from her position. I am grateful for her willingness to remain as executive vice president and provost into the period of presidential transition. Now that she has returned from her leave, and I am midway through my transition, together we have decided that the time is right to launch a national search for her successor. I plan to appoint a search committee this month. I thank Chris Cramer, vice president for research, and Amy Pittenger, Faculty Consultative Committee chair and associate professor in the College of Pharmacy, for agreeing to serve as cochairs of the search committee for this critical leadership position.

**I invite your nominations of faculty, staff, and students to serve as members of the search committee**, which will be charged with ensuring a robust, inclusive search process that will result in an outstanding pool of candidates. Please send your nominations for membership on the committee to [apesch@umn.edu](mailto:apesch@umn.edu) by Friday, April 19, along with a brief word or two in support of the nomination.

This month, listening sessions will be held with faculty, staff, and student leaders to gather input on the search process and shape the position profile. I plan to announce the full search committee before the end of spring semester, so that it may engage in aggressive recruiting efforts over the summer and host public interviews with finalists in the fall, in anticipation of a potential start date around or after the first of the year. Ken Kring, head of the education practice at Korn Ferry and experienced in senior academic leadership transitions in higher education, has been engaged to assist the search committee with sourcing and recruiting a diverse, highly qualified candidate pool.

I look forward to working with you in the days ahead to advance our university's excellence and impact. In the meantime, if you have questions or would like more information about this search, please contact Kate Stuckert, HR director for the President's and Provost's offices, at [stuck005@umn.edu](mailto:stuck005@umn.edu) or 612-625-8844.

Many thanks,  
Joan T.A. Gabel