

Metropolitan State University President Sue Hammersmith announces retirement

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Sue Hammersmith, president of Metropolitan State University, has announced that she will retire at the end of her current contract on June 30, 2014. She has been president of Metropolitan State since 2008.

"It has been a great joy and privilege to serve as the president of Metropolitan State University and to witness the extraordinary education that transpires between our students and our faculty and staff," said Hammersmith. "Although I continue to be inspired by our mission, our vision, and our students, I look forward to retirement and the opportunity to pursue additional interests after 38 years in higher education and six wonderful years at Metropolitan State."

"I would like to thank President Hammersmith for her years of service and many contributions to the university and its success," said Steven Rosenstone, Chancellor of the Minnesota State Colleges and Universities. "The metropolitan area has benefitted from her collaborative work with the university's faculty and staff. Under President Hammersmith's leadership, the university made significant progress in serving the community, advancing excellence in its programs, and providing students with an outstanding education."

During Hammersmith's presidency, Metropolitan State's enrollment has grown by 20 percent, enrollment of students of color has increased by 35 percent, the number of degrees conferred has grown by 38 percent, and several new programs have been added, including applied doctoral programs in business management and nursing practice.

An interim president will be appointed to serve during the 2014-2015 academic year. A national search for a permanent president will be initiated during the summer of 2014. Chancellor Rosenstone will visit the university campus to consult with students, faculty, staff, and the community on the desired qualities of the next president.

Metropolitan State University, a member of the Minnesota State Colleges and Universities system, is America's premier university for lifelong learning, providing unsurpassed, competitive academic and professional degree programs at the bachelor's, master's, and doctoral levels while maintaining affordability.