Vision for the University of Minnesota Tribal Nations Relations

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The Responsibility

• Land Grant University

• Eleven Sovereign Nations in Minnesota Borders (12 including MCT)

• Obligations have been acknowledged by the U.S. and Minnesota -- not by the U of M system-wide
The University of Minnesota System will be:

- A premier choice for Native American faculty, students and staff nationwide
- Nationally recognized for Inclusive Excellence in educating, supporting and empowering Native Americans
Vision...

• The U of M will be transformed system-wide by authentic, visible leadership by Native American students, staff, faculty and administrators.

• The Native Nations in Minnesota will consider themselves true partners with the University and its campuses.
The Goals

- Understanding History
- Understanding the Present and Future of Tribal Nations
The Plan

• Educate the People of the Minnesota

• Educate the University of Minnesota
The Partnership

• Recognizing and Respecting:
  - The Sovereign status of Indian tribes
  - The obligations of the University of Minnesota to Tribal Nations and Indian people
  - The needs of the Indian tribes and potential benefits of partnering
The Consultation Process

- The American Indian Advisory Councils
- The Native Nations Advisory Board
- A Center/Institute to work with Tribes on mutual concerns & problems
- An ongoing, never-ending process
The Campuses

- Support the efforts of each campus to work with Tribal Nations

- Empower American Indian faculty, students and staff with authentic leadership
Faculty & Staff

• Focus on the recruitment and retention of Native American Faculty and Staff.

• Develop a stronger support system for Native American Faculty and Staff.
The Students

• Make all campuses of the University of Minnesota a preferred school for Native American Students

• Create a climate so that Native Americans can thrive at the University of Minnesota – not just survive

• Support Student Leadership and Campus Engagement
The Policies

• The U of M must recognize that its existence is due to sacrifices made by Minnesota Tribes
• The U of M must recognize the Government-to-Government Relationship
• The U of M must recognize American Indians as a political status -- not a racial classification.
• The U of M owes services to American Indian students based upon their unique status as a political class.
The Voice of the Tribes

• The President, the Regents and senior Administration of the University of Minnesota need to regularly hear and respect the voices of the tribes.

• All American Indians in Minnesota, students, faculty, staff and citizens are owed a voice at the University of Minnesota.
• Tribal Consultation is key to all progress – the best answers come from Indian country.

• The internal experts are the Native American faculty, staff and students.

• The U of M is one of the great institutions in the Nation for mainstream America ... and has potential to be one of the greatest institutions in the United States for American Indian students, faculty and staff.
Miigwech!