Dear Friends and Colleagues,

On Friday, I was pleased to announce the initiation of the UM Women’s Leadership Initiative during my State of the University Address. Over the course of my administration, respect for and support of a diverse campus has been one of my top priorities. Beyond the basic rationale of fairness, a diverse campus makes for a stronger learning environment and workplace.

Under the direction of Deena Mansour, Associate Director of the Maureen and Mike Mansfield Center, and this year’s Presidential Leadership Fellow, the Initiative will be a partnership of faculty, staff, and administrators. The goal is to build a culture of gender equality at UM that is supportive of women’s advancement, retention, and recruitment.

A central focus of the Initiative will be a Women’s Leadership Cohort, in which 12 women from across UM will be selected in an open application process. Participants will engage in networking, mentorship, and training opportunities to develop their capacity to advance into positions of greater leadership. Applications opened Friday and will close at noon on Friday, September 11.

The brief Cohort Application and additional information can be found on the Initiative's website.

Our challenges and ambitions are not small, but I know we are up to the task. I hope you will join me in supporting this effort to re-shape our culture.

Sincerely,
Royce C. Engstrom, President