

## **New Detroit Presentation**

### **Introduction**

First want to thank Martin and the members of the Board for inviting me to come over this morning.

In a sense, I am coming more as a student than as a University president, since I seek to learn more about leadership organizations such as New Detroit, how you serve your community by empowering your citizens...

I also seek to learn about how the University of Michigan can serve better the city of Detroit...

Indeed, this is one of some 6 or 7 visits to your city over the next couple of weeks...which is both a sign of the priority we place on learning more about Detroit, meeting its leaders, and thinking about how we can become constructively involved...

as well as the fact that I need more systematic calendar management so I'm not on I-94 between Ann Arbor and Detroit so much...

### **Background**

Today I would like to make a few comments on two topics...

- i) the University's plan to achieve racial and ethnic diversity and pluralism
- ii) and, second, the importance of education both to this city and this state to meet the challenges of the new knowledge-intensive society we are becoming.

The University has a long history of involvement with the city of Detroit...Indeed, we were founded in Detroit in 1817 by Woodward, Cass, and others...

Of course there has been an ebb and flow in the intensity of our association with the city since our move to Ann Arbor...

But there has never been a time when our destinies were not linked closely together...

And indeed, I believe it has never been more true than today that the fate of Detroit and its people is intimately linked to that of our University---and vice versa...