

LA Dinner

Background

Some 300 guests are donors giving 10k or more plus prospects of 100k up.

Sandy Robertson will Chair.

Your remarks come after dinner so can be briefer and lighter.

Maybe less emphasis on the importance of individual benefactors and their unique role in exercising leadership and more on the Michigan extended family--340,000 strong.

Possibly talk about what is unique about Michigan spirit as in the football program or freshman letter--commitment to go all out --to try --to aspire to be the best at whatever we do. That is why our alums are in leadership in every walk of life across the country and around the world.

We stand out because we are public. We offer to all with the ability and will to succeed, a chance to go for it with an education second to none but with our resources that are 1/4 that of the peers we compete with. We need to keep that quality opportunity open to new generations. If not us, who?

There are some who say that public education does not have to be the best. Those who want quality should go to private institutions. But we cannot accept that notion. We are the path of opportunity and cannot close it off. This is fundamental to all that we do and must continue to be.

Main purpose is to convey sense of vision for UM.

The critical importance of our leadership as
a public institution/UM a winner and leader

Maybe for outstate say less about decline of
State support

Speak more generally about contemporary society
not meeting its obligations to the futures

No other institution can match our scope and breadth.
this allows for the kind of interdisciplinary
partnership on the campus we will need to
address major problems of mankind.

Maybe cite example of the global environment
study combining sciences, natural resources,
social sciences, engineering, remote sensing,
public health, and international programs.

Something on this scale only possible at few
places in the country.

Note that we see only three or four universities
as competition--UCLA, Cornell, etc.

They will like reference to UCLA.

Public funds no longer can sustain great universities
and they are limited by the limited vision of
the political marketplace

For true vision and daring, we must turn to private sector,.

This is the catalyst we need to support new directions
and achieve highest quality.

Only unusual individuals can have that kind of vision,
daring and commitment to excellence that makes
the critical margin of difference.

UM is fortunate in having so many friends and alums
who are people of vision.

Maybe it is because we are public
that so many of our alums are leaders.

Whatever their background they are leaders
and I believe that is why so many are loyal to UM.

Example of new chemistry building.

Committees and governments by their nature
can't be brilliant or only rarely recognize and support brilliance.

Only individuals can as benefactors
or working together as alums can understand,
help support and provide counsel about
future UM directions because they have
the intimate personal knowledge of the University
and deeply held experience and conviction
about the importance of what it stands for.

The California contingent is especially strong and loyal.
They have a critical role to play in helping the University
not just with money but with involvement, support and concern.

My request...

- Help us tell our story to the public
- Help us tell our story to the politicians
- Help us make new friends and enlist new supporters

You are looking to this group for leadership in coming years.
They will make the difference in whether
we can sustain our vision and our leadership
so that future generations can have the same chance
we have had to have the best education,
the best research to serve their needs.

Development hopes that guests will have
plenty of opportunity to ask questions and to comment.

Note: There will be approximately a 60% overlap
of this group at the dinner in the evening.

You may want to take note of this
if you expect to repeat some of remarks again later.

Lunch should have more detail and focus
than dinner but these are the same.