

To: USM Community

From: Joe Wishcamper, Chair USM Presidential Search Committee

The work of the Presidential Search Committee is well under way and making excellent progress. Our announcement of the position attracted a large pool of well qualified applicants. The Search Committee has reviewed the candidates, conducted reference checking for 16 selected to move forward, and on October 26 selected 8 candidates for initial interviews. These interviews will be held in mid-November. Following that we will select a small number of candidates to invite for campus visits in mid-January after the start of the second semester.

The campus visits are an opportunity for the candidate and the USM community to get to know each other better. You can play an important role by attending open sessions with candidates and providing your input about how well the candidate fits the qualifications needed for USM's next leader. I encourage you to take an active role in the process. Information about candidate itineraries will be distributed as we approach the dates of the visits.

I am very grateful for the work of the search committee members. They have devoted many hours to carefully reviewing the candidates' credentials and conducting the reference checking. They are a group of thoughtful people focused on the needs and interests of USM. It is my privilege to work with them. We are assisted by James Appleberry, search consultant, who is highly knowledgeable and skilled in the search process.

Thanks to all of you for your support of the process.