

Speaking Points

David T. Barnard, President and Vice-Chancellor

Homecoming Dinner and Dance

6:00 p.m. Saturday, September 20, 2014

Manitoba Room, University Centre

Other speakers:

- **John Kearsey**, VP (External)
 - **Harvey Sector**, Chancellor
 - **Tito Daudu**, student of medicine at U of M, works to promote equality and empower women
 - **Jeff Lieberman**, President of the Alumni Association
 - **Edmund Dawe**, Dean of the Desautels Faculty of Music
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Suggested Speaking Notes:

- Good evening. Thank you.
- It is truly an honour for me to bring greetings tonight as the President of the University of Manitoba.
- I trust you all share my immense sense of pride for being part of the great community that is our university.
- Our alumni community is:
 - a worldwide network of partners
 - informing, creating, and inventing our world's future.
- And we have a remarkable story to tell.

- At the University of Manitoba, our story is about the inextricable link between a place and its people
- It exemplifies the character of individuals, like all of you, who accomplish great things in settings where others hesitate to venture.
- Our story has not been created by bending to forces of nature or circumstance, but by defying these forces, innovating around them and embracing them as part of who we are.
- Each of us is a part of that story.
- We are a community of people inspired by the power and the spirit of this place.
- Although many of us have travelled in different directions, or perhaps started our journey's elsewhere, we share a connection to a university that is at the centre of its community's emerging opportunities, and these opportunities are endless.
- **Manitoba is experiencing immense revitalization.**
- In the past decade, Manitoba has witnessed:
 - the construction of:
 - two world-class sports and entertainment venues,
 - a stunning new international airport terminal, and

- an iconic downtown pedestrian bridge,
 - the rebirth of one of Winnipeg's most popular family parks,
 - the attraction of the first national museum outside of Ottawa.
- **Graduates of the University of Manitoba are leading the way in our province's rise.**
- More than 80 per cent of U of M graduates remain in the province after graduation, contributing to our health and well-being and defining our social, cultural and economic fabric.
- **It's hard to find a Manitoba success story without a U of M connection.**
- Our people are at the heart of Manitoba's resurgence, and their accomplishments are telling a new story about Manitoba to rest of the world.
- Our influence, however, reaches far beyond our province.
- From gold medal winners to Nobel Peace Prize recipients, global philanthropists to members of the United Nations, **our graduates prove that from here, you can go anywhere.**

- We have created a community with global significance, but we have not forgotten the importance of staying connected.
- We know that the only way for our various communities to be invested in our success is to ensure they know that we are truly invested in theirs.
- And we are.
- We look to each of you to help shape and define the university, just as the university has helped to shape and define you.
- Many of you are familiar with our university's Strategic Planning Framework.
- An iteration was shared in 2009, after extensive consultation with our university community.
- This framework has allowed us to prioritize and to deliver the best possible post-secondary experience with the resources we have.
- In preparation for the next five-year phase, we have again engaged with our community to garner input from our alumni and other stakeholders.

- This new framework is in its final stages of development and will be shared with you very soon.
- Thank you to all of you who shared your thoughts and feedback during our consultations.
- At the University of Manitoba, our story is built on the strength of people, and we take great pride in that.
- Together, we will advance our province, build national partnerships, spark innovation, inspire discovery and create opportunities now, and for generations to come.
- Thank you.