

UMKC New Student Convocation
Sunday, August 21, 2011

Chancellor Leo Morton

Welcome, students.

As Kansas City's University, we are committed to ensuring access to a quality education for everyone in our community. We are committed to increasing the number of college graduates; graduates who are key to the long-term economic health of Missouri and our country.

UMKC offers all of the amenities of a large university with a small campus feel; we have a low faculty to student ratio, which means you have the opportunity to interact with faculty in a meaningful way and to enjoy a personal educational experience.

UMKC continues to grow and to expand its resources. In the last several years, a new soccer stadium opened and a new residence hall was added. The Miller Nichols Library installed a robotic book retrieval system that transformed the library. This opened up space throughout the library making accessible new spaces for students and faculty to gather for collaborative learning. The new student union is a state-of-the-art facility that is a hub of activity on our campus. Built by the students for the students, you are the beneficiaries of their vision and investment.

Entering a university is an exciting time for each of you. Today you become a member of this community of thinkers, dreamers and doers. As Nelson Mandela said, "Education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world." We are offering you nothing less than tools to change the world.

In choosing to come to UMKC you have committed to the hard work before you. But it will be some of the best work that you will ever undertake. I encourage you to get to know your fellow

students and our faculty and staff; to immerse yourself in this community by attending performances and athletic events; by hanging out in the new student union; and locating the perfect place to study and friends that you can study with. If you need help, let us know. We look forward to greeting you again in the not too distant future as you cross the stage and receive your diplomas in recognition of your academic achievements.