

Biography

Lori J. Carrell, PhD, Chancellor, University of Minnesota Rochester

Lori J. Carrell is chancellor of the Rochester campus of the University of Minnesota, a young public university with a Vision to “inspire transformation in higher education through innovations that empower graduates to solve the grand health challenges of the 21st century”. Dr. Carrell believes new designs are needed for this new era, and that change in higher ed can be led from the inside out. UMR started with a blank canvas in 2009, aspiring to be a prototype campus guided by three principles: *students are at the center, research informs practice, and partners make it possible*. With a diverse student body of health sciences students (two thirds underrepresented), this principled approach has produced equity in educational attainment as reported by the *Washington Post, Hechinger Report*, and *Chronicle of Higher Education Innovation Issue*. Innovating at the intersection of decreased cost and increased quality, the campus recently designed and launched the accelerated, career connected NXT GEN MED degree, with partners Google Cloud and Mayo Clinic. Carrell is co-author of *Communicate for a Change - Revitalizing Conversations for Higher Education* and the forthcoming *College in 3 - An Overdue Conversation about Reducing Cost and Improving Quality*.

Chancellor Carrell has served the new and innovative University of Minnesota Rochester (UMR) campus as a collaborative and inspirational leader since 2014. Selected as the second chancellor in February 2018, she first served UMR as vice chancellor for both academic and student affairs and then as interim chancellor. Prior to joining the University of Minnesota, she led general education reform efforts in the University of Wisconsin system as a campus leader in Oshkosh, where she also founded and directed a research-based teaching and learning center while continuing as a distinguished professor of communication. Her speeches, publications, and scholarly work focus on human communication as a catalyst for transformation. Known as a creative strategist, Dr. Carrell’s commitments to learning research, innovation through inclusive conversations, and exemplary teaching resonate well with UMR’s vision to inspire transformation in higher education. UMR students experience high-impact practices identified by the American Association of Colleges and Universities (AAC&U) and additional practices discerned as valuable through UMR faculty research which is focused on student learning and development.

Born in Indiana, Chancellor Carrell graduated summa cum laude from Anderson University. She completed her master’s degree at the University of Alaska Anchorage and her PhD at the University of Denver. Dr. Carrell began her career as a teacher in her Hoosier hometown, then sought to learn through adventure as a counselor and teacher in a remote Yup’ik village in Alaska. Such adventure-seeking has taken her to the Middle East as a contributor to the launch of a new university in Oman; to a remote tribe in Ecuador to study intercultural learning; and across the country, to investigate change in the communication between preachers and listeners.

Carrell serves on the Minnesota team of Citizens and Scholars, a national endeavor to connect policy makers and higher ed leaders for generative conversation as well as several nonprofit boards. Honors include an Edward Penson Faculty Award, a Research Associate Professorship, the Weaver Award for Outstanding College Educator, an Endowment for Excellence Professorship, a Federation Research Prize from the Central States Communication Association, and a recent nomination for the McGraw Prize in Education, for innovation in higher education.