

# Statement from Lou Anna K. Simon

I'm really honored by the confidence that you've expressed in me, and a bit humbled as I indicated at the board meeting. To repeat some of the comments I made there: Like a lot of people, I was envisioning a national search to fill this position. I believed that I was a strong candidate, but I was genuinely surprised that today followed yesterday, in terms of how quickly You arrived at your decision.

Like many of you, I'm a first-generation college student. So I was touched by something that happened when we did the fellowship awards for the Broad students in Detroit last week. I made that same comment to a set of students there — students who will have the opportunity to pursue a full ride at Michigan State in exchange for going back to Detroit and making a difference in their communities — and one of the mothers nudged her daughter in the ribs and said, "Look at that!" Because the daughter also was a first-generation college student.

There's a kind of magic in that, but Michigan State does have a magical quality. It's been that way for me, and it's

been that way for many others as well. So our task is to make sure it stays that way for many years to come.

Even though times have been difficult, and sometimes realities have been very stark and accord seemingly very elusive, we have formed partnerships. And we must continue to do that, so "Team MSU," working tirelessly and passionately, will keep Michigan State University on the path of relevant and meaningful excellence.

This opportunity for me is really based on the successful work of many, many others.

I believe that Michigan State University made the correct choice 11 years ago in asking Peter to serve as president. Because I think I've learned from our partnership and have been able to make many, many contributions to the university as a result. Looking back on today from some point in the future, I hope the same will be said about this presidency.

*For the complete statement from Simon, visit the Web at [http://special.newsroom.msu.edu/new\\_president/index.html](http://special.newsroom.msu.edu/new_president/index.html)*