

23 years of service

End of an Era



Michael J. Reed

Dr. Michael J. Reed ended his tenure as dean of the UMKC School of Dentistry on September 30, 2008, after 23 years of exceptional service.

Dr. Reed's leadership enabled the school to strengthen its long and distinguished reputation for excellence in dental education, service, research and clinical care. During his tenure:

- The school received over \$24 million in state appropriations to renovate, equip and modernize its facilities.
- The school increased the size and quality of its faculty, even during periods of fiscal stress for the state and university-system.
- Sponsored research increased nearly 900 percent to more than \$6 million annually.
- The Department of Oral Biology received a \$5.7 million NIH program project grant, the largest research grant in UMKC history.
- A capital campaign raised more than \$9.5 million in private funding for various programs benefiting faculty and students.

- A federal construction grant supplemented university funds to support a \$5.6 million construction project to create 14,000 square feet of research space.
- Student performance improved on national board exams, placing UMKC among the top ten schools in the country every year for the past eight years.
- The Midwest Dental Conference and Annual Alumni Meeting, which this past year attracted more than 3,700 participants, has grown to become one of the largest school-sponsored dental conferences in the country.

In 2005, in honor of Dr. Reed's 20th anniversary as dean, the Alumni Association established a scholarship in his name and commemorated the occasion with these words: "You have guided our institution ... with uncommon courage and conviction, compassion and concern, dedication and pride, energy and wisdom. The UMKC School of Dentistry, the profession and the communities they serve, thank you. We are all immeasurably better because of you."

In farewell remarks he recently made to faculty, administrators and alumni leaders, Dean Reed said he was humbled by, and deeply thankful for, the extraordinary accomplishments of the many individuals he had been privileged to work with at UMKC. "And I know, as I look to the future, that our best years are still ahead of us. With your support and continued hard work, there are no limits to what UMKC can accomplish."

Dean Reed plans to stay active in dental education, both here and overseas. He will be serving as a senior policy adviser to the American Dental Education Association and writing a series of invited papers on the future of dental education. ■

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