

First Five Fridays: A vlog conversation with UM System President Mun Choi
Transcript of Episode 3 – Leadership
March 17, 2017

Fougere: How would you describe your leadership style over of your years, moving the ladder up in higher education?

Choi: Thank you, thank you. I believe my leadership style is one that is defined by collaboration. One that is defined by mutual respect, recognizing that every single stakeholder within the university system can contribute. So, how do we bring out the best in people? And the best way to do that, I believe, is to empower individuals, appreciate their contributions, and demonstrate that together, we can become a stronger university system than working in silos or individually.

Fougere: What did you hear specifically from faculty, staff, and students about what they want from their leaders as you made those visits late last year?

Choi: I think it's very important, what they shared with me, to really emphasize that they want a leader that serves the stakeholders, and I think that's very key. And as the president of the University of Missouri System, I'm gonna be working very closely, not only with the administrators, but also the key stakeholders to listen to their aspirations about their view, their vision for the university, and together, come up with a shared vision that's gonna create a university system that's gonna be stronger, more resilient for the future.

Fougere: As you look back, Mun, what are some of the personal and professional experiences that kind of influence your leadership style in your career?

Choi: It's really been defined by learning, and observing, from people that I respect. Whether it was the former Dean of Engineering at Drexel University or the president of the University of Connecticut, there are many important lessons that I learned by watching how they interacted, how they made difficult decisions. And in many ways, leadership is defined by some of the mistakes that are made. And learning from those mistakes. And to recognize that there are always better ways to do things and also, to listen to others who have had the experience.