Carla Carlson Appointed as UMore Development LLC Executive Director

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MINNEAPOLIS (6/13/2012) – Carla Carlson was named executive director of the UMore Development LLC by the company’s nine-member Board of Governors at its quarterly meeting in May.

The UMore Development LLC was established by the University of Minnesota in December 2009 to manage the day-to-day business operations and future development of the University’s 5,000-acre UMore Park property located in Dakota County. Strategic planning to maximize the value of the property was launched in 2005, and a concept master plan for the property was approved by the University’s Board of Regents in 2008.

Carlson has served in various UMore Park strategic management roles since 2005. She has been instrumental in advancing the project from early visioning to a concept master plan, and integrating stepwise processes with University strengths in research, education and outreach. In addition, she has managed a public engagement process over time that has included listening sessions in the community and interactive public forums on planning, sustainability and renewable energy, among others.

In her role as executive director, Carlson will focus on the LLC’s initiative on economic development, in conjunction with partners in the region. She will also oversee the LLC’s contributions to the Alternative Urban Areawide Review (AUAR), a collaborative effort led by the City of Rosemount, in conjunction with Empire Township and the LLC. The AUAR will assess the potential effects from future development. Michael O’Keefe, chair of the LLC Board of Governors said, “We are delighted to have Carla Carlson provide leadership to the LLC as its executive director. The Board recognized that Carla’s integral role from the genesis of the project and her longtime working relationships with local jurisdictions and organizations, coupled with her broad experience at the University, maker her ideal to lead our work going forward.”

Carlson follows Charles C. Muscoplat in the LLC leadership position. Following his six years of service to UMore Park, Muscoplat has assumed responsibilities for the University’s Committee for Pharmaceutical Development as well as other academic activities.

Carlson came to the University in 1996 from her position as assistant executive director of the Board on Agriculture as the National Academies – National Research Council in Washington, D.C. From 1996 to 2000, she worked at the Hubert H. Humphrey Institute of Public Affairs as associate director of the Orville and Jane Freeman Center on International Economic Policy. She served as assistant vice president of agricultural policy and chief of staff in the College of Agricultural, Food and Environmental Sciences from 2000 to 2006, prior to the formal initiation of the UMore Park project.

Robert J. Jones, University of Minnesota system senior vice president for academic administration, is responsible for oversight of the relationship between the University and the UMore Development LLC.