



To: MNSCU Faculty, Students and Staff  
From: Minnesota Secretary of State Mark Ritchie  
Date: March 5, 2014  
RE: US Russia Innovation Week

Following are details about the US Russia Innovation events open to MNSCU faculty, students and staff. We are excited about the large number of participants that will be coming from Russia and know this will be an invaluable opportunity to deepen relations between the people of our two great countries and between key institutions here in Minnesota and in Russia's most innovative regions.

1. Faculty, students and staff are invited to join in discussions with counterparts and colleagues from colleges and universities from Russia on the morning of March 24<sup>th</sup> from 9-11:30 AM at the Science Museum of Minnesota in St. Paul. This is free of charge but an RSVP is appreciated for planning purposes to [mark@minnesotaworldsfair.org](mailto:mark@minnesotaworldsfair.org).

There will be coffee starting at 8:30 and we will meet in the Argon Room on the 3rd floor. We will start with introductions by everyone and then use smaller groups to discuss specific possibilities. The following Russian institutions have indicated their interest in participating.

Moscow Institute of Physics and Technology  
Urals Federal University  
Tomsk State University  
Tomsk State University of Control Systems and Radioelectronics  
St. Petersburg State University  
Russian State University for the Humanities

2. We invite all who come to participate in these discussions to join us for a special tour of the Minnesota Zoo's spectacular Russian Grizzly exhibit and conservation programs designed to save the Amur (Siberian) tigers and leopards from extinction. The bus for this will leave the St. Paul Hotel, about a block away from the Science Museum, at 1:00PM and return around 4:30. Again, an RSVP is helpful for planning purposes – [mark@minnesotaworldsfair.org](mailto:mark@minnesotaworldsfair.org).

3. On the 25<sup>th</sup> of March the US Russia Innovation Conference will take place at the St. Paul Hotel. Information and registration details at our registration site at [www.usrussiainnovation.com](http://www.usrussiainnovation.com). There are special rates for students. There is also a tradeshow/exhibit hall with opportunities for colleges and student groups to promote their programs to the public. At the end of the day all registered participants are invited to a closing reception at The Museum of Russian Art – with buses leaving from the St. Paul Hotel.

4. On the 26<sup>th</sup> there will be over a dozen site visits/tours of some of the most innovative companies and research centers in the country that are based here in Minnesota.. A list is available on the website [www.usrussiainnovation.com](http://www.usrussiainnovation.com) . Most of these tours will be from 9-1 PM. Shuttle buses will be provided free of charge.

There is flexibility in this program to accommodate new ideas and program suggestions. Please do not hesitate to contact me at any time with your suggestions or questions. I can be reached at [mark@minnesotaworldsfair.org](mailto:mark@minnesotaworldsfair.org).