



Leadership Letter

From the Vice Chancellor

As I pass my one-year anniversary at UMN Crookston, I've taken some time to connect with several of my mentors and a number of my prior work colleagues. When they ask me about what stands out the most about this place, the answer is simple—it's the people. After one year, there are also times when I wonder if our students realize how significant it is that our institution is defined by its people. Granted, we made a name for ourselves some twenty years ago by being the nation's first "laptop university" and one of the first to offer online degrees, but if the lessons of technology, the Internet revolution, and the emergence of artificial intelligence have taught us anything, I hope that it is the importance of focusing on the human dimensions of education. Consider this: In its 2018 Future of Jobs Report, the World Economic Forum (WEF) noted that nearly 50% of companies expect automation and robotics to lead to workforce cuts in the next five years; however, new job creation is expected to outpace job cuts. Perhaps more important for you as students is the fact that these new jobs are going to look different. Among the skills that WEF identified as increasing in importance are critical thinking, creativity, emotional intelligence, flexibility, teamwork, leadership, and social influence. In contrast, those identified as decreasing in importance were memory,



manual dexterity, and technology use.

When speaking with online students, I often hear that the convenience of completing your degree online is one of the most important aspects of your UMN Crookston experience. Further, unlike most of our on-campus students, you likely have personal, professional, and family relationships in place, and you're not looking for clubs or activities to help you meet other students. With that in mind, why am I speaking so much about the human side of education? Why? Because it's what matters the most. The future does not need highly competent individuals who are good at solving problems—the future needs workers who will be able to work in teams to solve problems that are too complex for any one individual to solve on their own.

That leads to an obvious next question: How students learn these skills when studying online? The answer is not the same for online students, but it is also surprisingly similar to on-campus students. When speaking with alumni, I hear that knowledge and skills are learned in the classroom but mastered outside of it. Mastery occurs when students talk about what they are learning in the classroom and begin to apply it. On-campus, our students typically test their learning in clubs and organizations, while living in the residence halls, or on an internship. For online students, learning transitions to mastery when they share discussion board threads with friends and family, when they try out new skills at work, or when they try to figure out how class content connects to community involvement.

The Gallup-Purdue Index is a large, comprehensive study of college graduates in the United States. Among its most profound findings over the past five years is that there is essentially no connection between where you go to college and how successful you are in life. Instead, the primary predictors of success in life have to do with what you make of your college experience. My advice is that as you begin to try to make the most out of your college experience, do it while focusing on people, whether they be family, friends, co-workers, fellow students, or faculty and staff.

Faculty Feature

Program Director for Criminal Justice: **Matthew Loeslie** and 2017 Outstanding Educator.

About: Loeslie holds an M.A. in criminal justice leadership from Concordia University, St Paul, Minn., and is a certified law enforcement officer.

Tips for on-campus students: My tip for on-



campus and online students is to take time each day to determine your 3 highest priority tasks. Then, relentlessly work on accomplishing those tasks throughout the day.

Favorite quote: “To accomplish our goals we must distill our dreams into daily actions” – Michael Hyatt

Why I chose law enforcement: When I was in high school, I worked as a cashier at a gas station. One night a suspect armed with a handgun entered the store and demanded all the money in the cash registers. My co-worker and I handed over the cash in the two cash registers. However, as the suspect was half way out the door to leave, my co-worker randomly blurted out “Wait, do you want the money in the safe too?” My co-worker motioned to the location of the stores secret safe... I couldn't believe the turn of events that transpired.

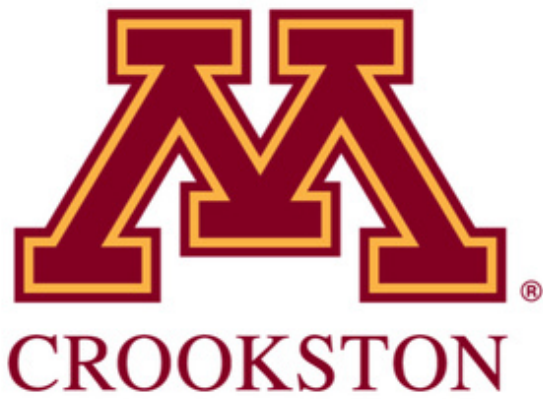
So, the suspect entered the store again and pointed the handgun at me and ordered me to open the safe. I opened the safe and handed over all the money while trying to keep my cool. During the event, I briefly considered fighting the suspect; however, I decided it would be best to comply with the suspect, be a good witness and not be shot.

The suspect got away and my interest in becoming a law enforcement officer was kindled.

Highlights

Online Tutors Available

As classes are getting into full swing, the **Student Success Center** is ready to provide tutoring to online students again this semester. Tutors meet with you using video conference. They can help you talk through homework assignments and course material to improve your understanding. There is no charge to UMN Crookston students to meet with a UMN Crookston tutor. [Sign up using this link](#)



Midterm Alerts Begin

Tue, Sep 17

TUITION REFUND
DEADLINE

25% Tuition Refund Deadline

Learn more about refunds -

<https://onestop.crk.umn.edu/finances/refunds>

Refund schedule -...

Tue, Sep 24

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