



## Leadership Letter

### From the Chancellor

Last week certainly was a busy week. Thanks to all of you who came out and warmly greeted Regent McMillan and President Gabel. I know they both enjoyed their time on campus and having a chance to talk with you. I certainly hope you had a chance to get upstairs in Bede and view the Roots of the Red River Valley exhibit. We certainly had new and old friends join us on campus to view the photographs. Many many thanks to Ken Mendez, Megan Beck Peterson and Lauren Wallace for their vision.



As always on a vibrant campus there are many activities coming up this week. Please stop up to Bede Ballroom Tuesday, November 12th from 1p.m. to 4p.m. and engage in the 18th Annual Job and Internship Fair. Please go out of your way to get our students up there. This event is for them. More than thirty (30) businesses and organizations from Minnesota and North Dakota will be on hand to discuss employment and internship opportunities.

A \$500 scholarship will be given away to one of the students who attends.

On November 11, we will celebrate Veteran's Day. It is always on November 11, as the day marks the anniversary of the end of World War I. Major hostilities of World War I were formally ended at the 11th hour of the 11th day of the 11th month of 1918, when the Armistice with Germany went into effect.

My family, like many, had members who served in the military in the various conflicts including the Iraq, Afghanistan, Vietnam, Korea and World Wars. But my most personal connection with Veterans was through my oldest daughter, Alexis, who enlisted in the Army. Against her mother's anticipated pathway, she got on a plane for basic training when she was 18. She spent almost two years learning Arabic and was one of 10 of the 60 plus who started to graduate from the program. She served in Kuwait and other places I didn't know about prior to events in 2001. She left the military in 2002. Her transition and that of her Louisiana-born Marine husband to complete their education and transition to civilian life provided me impetus to try to understand better our Veterans.

We have more than 30 Veterans on our campus. I ran across this article written by Tanya Ang and Bruce Kelley, Ph.D. that I would like to summarize. I put this in an article several years ago just in case you are having a déjà vu moment. The article is entitled 5 Strengths Military-Connected Students Bring to Your Campus (Citation is Ang, T and Kelley, B. Webcast, December 1, 2016, Supporting Military-Connected Students for Success and Completion University of South Dakota. )

Each fall, as faculty, academic advisors, and others return to campus, there are fresh articles and blog posts about how to help military and veteran students. Often, these articles focus unfortunately on the "issues" that military students might bring to a campus, or the unique challenges they face. But Ang and Kelly provide a shift in perspective: Military and veteran students are powerful assets to campus learning, campus life, and campus community. Institutions need to be thinking not only about how to provide targeted support for military students, but also about how to leverage their unique strengths.

Here are five strengths of military-connected students.

1. They are already the product of an intense educational experience.
2. They bring diversity training and experience with diverse perspectives.
3. They have resilience and are trained problem solvers; some have also received leadership training.
4. They are working toward a mission and are focused on accomplishing their academic goals.
5. They are service-oriented, volunteering more frequently than any other student demographic.

It's true that each of these strengths can also provide challenges for these students, depending on the context. But failing to recognize these qualities first as strengths means missing significant opportunities to not only integrate these students into the classroom and campus community, but to boost the quality of the college experience for all students.

Ang says, “ When I am working with institutions of higher learning, a myth I sometimes need to address is the belief that military-connected students are not able to handle the academic rigor of higher learning, or that they decided to serve because they were not academic material, and thus they will not do well in school.” Research such as the Million Records Project, however, indicates that military-connected students do just as well, if not better, than their peers.

1. Besides their drive and intense focus, one of the reasons for this success is the intense training service members receive while serving. This prior training allows military-connected students to come to the classroom with knowledge and experience their peers might not necessarily have, as well as a drive to learn.

2. They bring experience with diverse perspectives. Many individuals who have served in the military have participated in some sort of multicultural training to help prepare for potential deployments or for being stationed in another country. Many have also had the experience of being abroad and experiencing different cultures firsthand. This training and experience brings a unique perspective to the classroom and provides opportunity for rich discussion as military-connected students are able to share their experiences with classmates.

3. They have mental nimbleness and resilience, and are trained problem-solvers. Kelley says, “The military stresses creativity and resilience. Army leaders, for example, are trained in “challenging inflexible ways of thinking, removing impediments to institutional innovation, and underwriting the risks associated with bold change.”

During their time in service, many military-connected students have indeed been faced with challenges they have had to overcome with creativity and resilience. That creativity and resiliency can greatly impact their success in higher education. Many have dependents, have financial obligations, and are working a full-time job while taking classes.

4. They are working toward a mission; they are focused and driven.

Kelly states, “Military-related students have been enculturated to be self-sufficient. Military-related students can draw on their training for both discipline and work ethic. But Kelley advises in the military, the mission is focused, direct, and subordinated to a higher cause. In higher education, the mission may be more diffuse, with multiple avenues for accomplishment. In addition, the “accomplish the objective, regardless of obstacles” attitude of some military-related students can be a challenge if they interpret that as a mission that must be accomplished alone. They may not recognize or feel comfortable using the various support systems put in place to assist them,

whether these are veterans' clubs or the more ubiquitous support centers like the writing center. On the one hand, observing some other students' lack of focus in the classroom can be distracting for student veterans. And on the other hand, veterans can feel "rusty" and believe they are behind their younger classmates; the transition from a position where they knew exactly what they needed to do to one where they are "relearning the ropes" can be frustrating."

5. They are service-oriented. Kelly suggests, " Military and veteran students are service-oriented; they joined "the service." In fact, student veterans volunteer at a higher rate than most students. Because of this, they can excel at service-learning types of activities. They often have connections to the community, and they engender the respect from those outside of academia that may be necessary to move a project forward. Service learning often involves the accomplishment of a practical activity with reflection and assessment afterwards -- an educational environment that is perhaps closest to that of the military's own educational processes."

Military-connected students are an expanding and exciting asset for colleges and universities. They transition into higher education with "a degree of maturity, experience with leadership, familiarity with diversity, and a mission-focused orientation" (American Council on Education, Accomodating Student Veterans, 2010, p. 1). We can leverage these students' strengths and also develop common-sense solutions to the challenges they face.

Please join me in appreciating not only the service they have provided but the many attributes they bring to our university.

Sincerely,

Chancellor Holz-Clause



# Veterans Day

HONORING ALL WHO SERVED

## Campus Announcements

### Winter Wear Drive

We are holding a drive for winter wear for students in need. Please consider donating your new or gently used and clean winter clothing. We're accepting through December 2, 2019.

Drop any donations for the winter wear drive at the Information Desk located in the Sargeant Student Center.

For any questions, please contact Megan Beck Peterson ([msbeck@crk.umn.edu](mailto:msbeck@crk.umn.edu))



### Professional Development Day Videos

For those who were unable to attend or would like to re-watch the Professional Development Day sessions the videos are now available.

Session 1 - Creating and Maintaining a Respectful Workplace with Fran Sepler:  
<http://www.kaltura.com/tiny/fefk5>

Session 2 - Case Studies in Higher Education with Fran Sepler:  
<http://www.kaltura.com/tiny/emonj>

Session 3 - *Prevention of Sexual Misconduct in the Workplace Using a Public Health Approach and UMN Crookston Student Health and Behavior Results*; Using the data to inform our work with students with Patti Franklin, Dave Golden, and Katie Lust:  
<http://www.kaltura.com/tiny/4jdm5>

# Highlights

## Soccer Senior Jacqueline Burke Finds Home Away Find Home at Minnesota Crookston

A young girl sits at her home in the largest city in the Last Frontier of Alaska, nestled among the beautiful spruce trees, and nearby mammoth mountains, and the breathtaking waters of the Gulf of Alaska. She has a dream and that dream is to play college soccer. At the time, it was a dream to be a goalkeeper at a college in California with lots of sunshine and beaches nearby.



But as we often learn, plans change and those plans often impact our life for the better. That is the case for the story of Jacqueline Burke, a senior for the University of Minnesota Crookston women's soccer team. She no longer calls goalkeeper her primary position and she isn't graduating from a college in California, but she has fallen in love. Burke has fallen in love with the campus, the community, and the overall life-changing memorable experience that she has had at the University of Minnesota Crookston. One that she wouldn't change for anything.

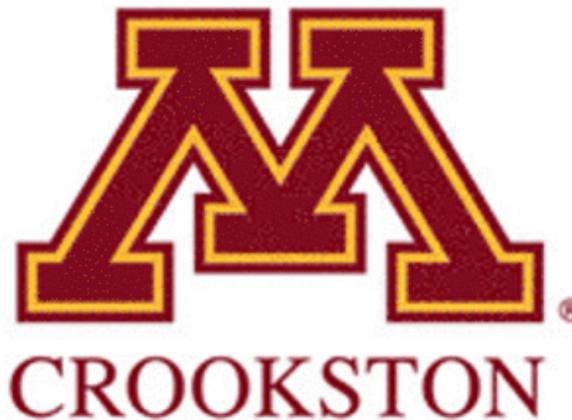
To read the full story, click [here](#).



## Job and Internship Fair - Students this one is...

November 12 - sign up today to participate, it is FREE.

Tue, Nov 12 •  
Bede Ballroom



## Spikeball Open Gym

Compete in the popular game of Spikeball!

Tue, Nov 12 7pm •  
Wellness Center Courts



## Marc Mero, Founder of Champion of Choices,...

Marc Mero's compelling message evokes personal reflection, laughter and tears – and most importantly personal transformation as he presents the topics of...

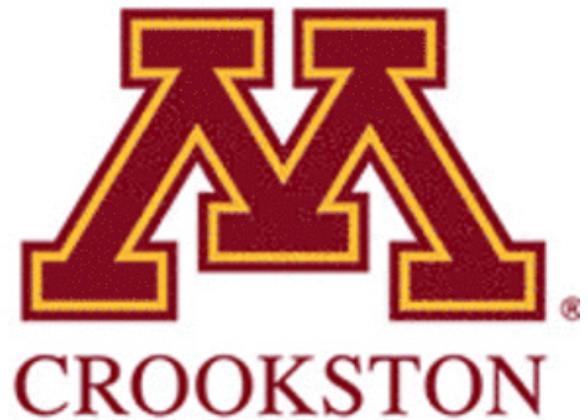
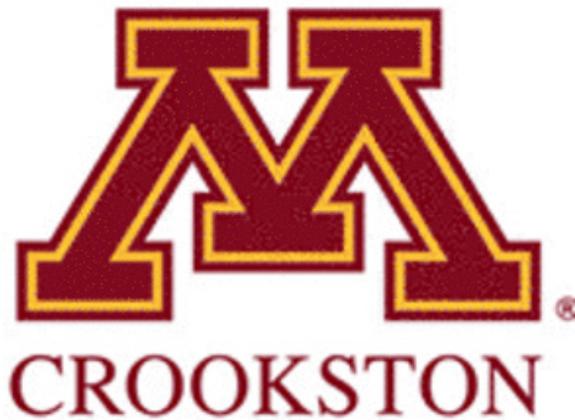
Wed, Nov 13 5pm •  
Kiehle Auditorium



## Fall Music Concert

Join us for a Fall Music Concert by our Choir and Concert Band.

Thu, Nov 14 7:30pm •  
Kiehle Auditorium



### Hot Yoga

Hot Yoga class taught by Burnham Creek Yoga

Tue, Nov 19 6pm •  
30702 209th St. SW Crookston, MN 56716

### Spikeball Tournament

Sign up and compete in a Spikeball Tournament

Tue, Nov 19 7pm •  
Wellness Center Court 1



### Winter Wear Drive

We are holding a drive for winter wear for students in need. Please consider donating your new or gently used and clean winter clothing. We're accepting...

Wed, Nov 13 •  
Sargeant Student Center Information Desk

[View more events...](#)

[Submit an Event](#)



### Looking Forward

- Faculty and Staff Holiday Party - December 20
- Agriculture and Natural Resources Day - December 6



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