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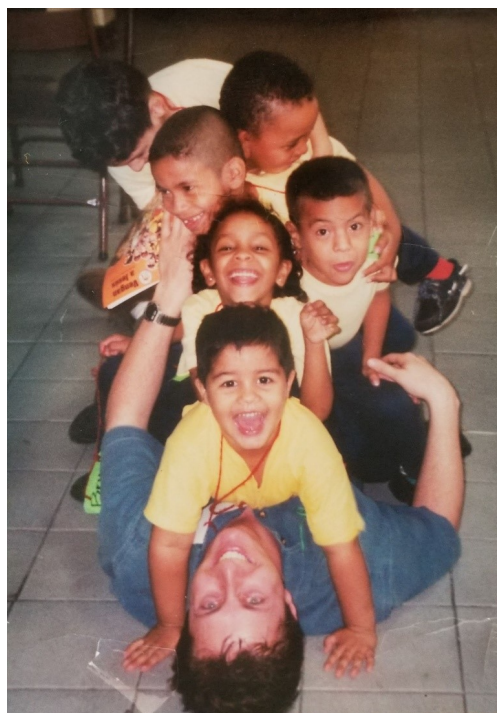


## *Leadership Letter*

### **From the Vice Chancellor**

During my days as a dean of students, I led a group of undergrads on a short-term study abroad course to Venezuela. I recall working with young children in a Caracas barrio who and singing "La Cucaracha" (the cockroach). I mused to my colleague, Marcos, about how odd it was for children to sing about a dirty bug. His response was quick, "Do you find it odd that children in the U.S. sing about Mickey Mouse, a rodent?" Point well taken.

This weekend began the celebration of the "Year of the Rat" in the Chinese zodiac. The rat is the first of the 12 animals in the Chinese zodiac; thus, in addition to symbolizing resourcefulness and curiosity, the Year of the Rat symbolizes an opportunity for renewal and new beginnings. These are important themes for us at UMN Crookston as we navigate a season of institutional change. For me, the Year of the Rat is also a reminder to set aside judgments of rats (and cockroaches, mice, and others) and to listen more deeply for lessons that come from the rich diversity of our campus community and the communities that surround us.



In a few days, we will begin to celebrate Black History month. I remember the first time that I attended a Black church service and how uncomfortable I was with call and response. My parents taught me to be quiet and "reverent" in church. I had also been taught that the truth of scripture had been tested methodically, if not scientifically, over

time. I shared these feelings with a friend who is to this day an embodiment of pastor and mentor to me. He gently, yet firmly, reminded me that individuals within my culture once

used tests of scripture to “prove” to African slaves that chattel slavery was not only just, but a benevolent aspect of God’s plan for humanity. The Civil War was, among other things, a battle over how to interpret the Bible. Pastor Gerry went on to explain how truth within the Black community is often tested first through a process of call and response to ensure that the truth of one person, such as a pastor, is not unfairly imposed upon others within the community.

In the spirit of advancing diversity, equity, and belonging at UMN Crookston in the coming lunar year—the year of the rat—I extend the following invitations for our community:

- As we work through what will be a contentious and polarized election year, resist the temptation to demonize those on the other side of the political spectrum—you can disagree with their opinions while valuing their humanity and honoring their patriotism.
- As greater attention focuses on religious differences and divides, consider what those with beliefs different than your own might see that you have missed or that has been hidden to you.
- As you encounter individuals who use pronouns such as they, them, their that may feel unfamiliar, remember that it was not long ago that individuals who chose to use both of their surnames (such as Chancellor Holz Clause) were viewed with skepticism or even as radicals who were bucking important societal norms.
- As more students encounter and disclose a range of disabilities, counter the tendency to view disabilities as faults to be corrected and consider how individuals with diverse abilities bring unique strengths and perspectives that strengthen our community.

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The University of Minnesota Crookston has one of the lowest average student debt figures in Minnesota as well as one of the lowest average student debt figures for all public institutions in the United States.

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*Campus Announcements*

We are closely monitoring the emerging, global public health concern involving the 2019 Novel Coronavirus (2019-nCoV). Since being first detected in Wuhan, China, the illness has made headlines as the virus has spread to other countries, including the first confirmed cases in the U.S.

We are working closely with the Minnesota Department of Health to ensure the health and well-being of our campus community. While concern has been expressed about the risk of the coronavirus, there are currently no confirmed cases on any University of Minnesota campuses.

For anyone seeking medical assistance for cold- or flu-like symptoms — the same symptoms as the coronavirus — medical providers are likely to conduct additional screening related to travel history.

If you have traveled to Wuhan, or have been in close contact with someone who has tested positive for coronavirus, and you are now experiencing symptoms, please contact Stacey Grunewald, RN [sgrunewa@umn.edu](mailto:sgrunewa@umn.edu) or your health care provider for further guidance.

Students, faculty, and staff who have traveled to Wuhan, but do not exhibit any symptoms, are encouraged to continue their normal activities. This is based on current guidance from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

Additional information can be found on the Center for Disease Control and Prevention website <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/>

*Stacey Grunewald, RN*

### **Meet with the Chancellor**

*Schedule Time with the Chancellor*

Faculty and Staff Instructors,

The last few weeks, I've had the chance to meet with some of you. Please reach out to Chris to schedule an appointment so I can hear from you the challenges and opportunities in your teaching.

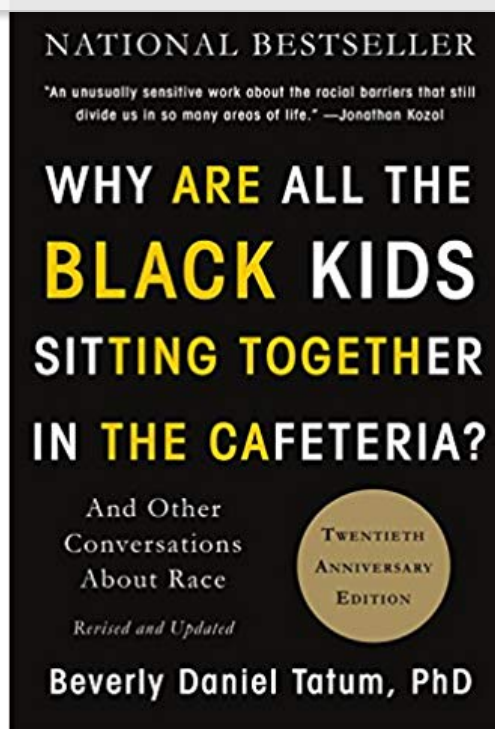
### **Black History Month Book Club**

In honor of Black History Month, join us in

reading "Why are all the Black Kids Sitting Together in the Cafeteria." Students, faculty, and staff are all welcome to come. We will meet every Wednesday at 12 p.m. from from January 29 until February 19. We will meet in the Prairie Lounge and engage in discussions about race.

Light refreshments will be served at our meetings and lunch will be served during our last meeting.

\*Book will be yours to keep!



### From the Student Success Center

#### GRE Study Groups

Do you have a student who is planning to take the GRE? Encourage them to sign up for a GRE study group this semester! Led by Kelsey Torgerson and Denise Greene, these study sessions will teach students what to expect from the test, how to find and use GRE resources, and ways to keep yourself accountable. We'll cover techniques and strategies to conquer all three sections - quantitative reasoning, verbal reasoning, and analytical writing. We will meet for an hour every other week, and we hope to begin at the beginning of February. If interested, students should fill out this [interest form](#) by Friday, January 31st. If they have any questions, they can contact Kelsey Torgerson!

#### Weekly Study Groups

The Student Success Center is again hosting weekly evening study groups for a few of our most highly requested classes. Study groups begin this week and are led by veteran tutors who are familiar with the classes. Any student in these classes is welcome to attend, but they are expected to bring questions and having already attempted the work on their own. Please pass the word along if you have a student or advisee in one of these classes. For questions, contact Josh Parrill.

- Intro Chemistry (Chem 1001) - Sundays from 8-9pm in Evergreen Classroom
- Intro to Animal Science (AnSc 1004) - Tuesdays from 5-6pm in UTOC 120

- College Algebra (Math 1031) and Calculus I (Math 1271) - Wednesdays from 5-6pm in Evergreen Classroom

- Writing Center Walk-In Help - Thursdays 7-9pm on 2nd Floor of the Library

### **NACTA Car Washes**

NACTA is holding Spring car washes! All proceeds will fund students' trips to Hays State to compete for the NACTA National Sweepstakes Title!



Car washes will go from January 28 - March 26 and will be every Tuesday from 2 - 5 p.m. and every Thursday from 12 - 5 p.m.

Car washes are \$30 and they will detail the inside and outside of the vehicle!

If anyone would like to sign up, please e-mail Mikayla Lacher at [lache045@crk.umn.edu](mailto:lache045@crk.umn.edu) or Ryan Greenwaldt at [gree2172@crk.umn.edu](mailto:gree2172@crk.umn.edu).

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## *Highlights*

### **Student Project Feature**

The Economic Development Association (EDA) Center, H&S Manufacturing, and University of Minnesota Crookston Business Lecturer, Courtney Bergman partnered together to develop a classroom project idea that would be beneficial to H&S Manufacturing and students at UMN Crookston.



Read the full story [here](#).

### **Legislative Breakfast**

The University of Minnesota Crookston will host a legislative kickoff meeting on Tuesday, February 4 from 9-10 a.m. in Bede Ballroom

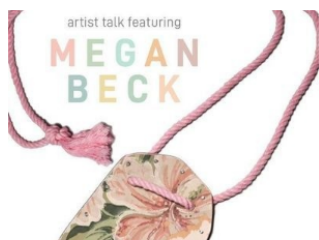
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This event will feature an overview of the U of M's legislative request, specific to the Crookston Campus, with a member of the U of M's Government Relations team as well as comments from Chancellor Mary Holz Clause.

We will also review the many easy techniques you can use to help convince lawmakers to be strong supporters for the U of M. Last year, systemwide, over 500 people attended these events across all the campuses. Attendees went on to work with lawmakers to increase the U of M's budget appropriation by \$42.3 million. The entire University of Minnesota is grateful for the time and effort of UMN Advocates.

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## Events



### Artist Talk featuring Megan Beck

Megan Beck is a contemporary jeweler whose current work is a reflection of her interactions with surfaces in surrounding environments. She is interested in how society translates surfaces, patterns and colors into intimate details and how they mirror identities. Much like the exterior of a well-worn coat,



Kahirou Diakite and Kennedy Nyongbela will share their respective country's cultures with UMN Crookston and the larger Crookston community.

🕒 Thursday, January 30 at 12:00pm

📍 **Bede Ballroom**

Sargeant Student Center, 2900 University Ave, Crookston, MN 56716



### Friday Funday Fun!

Friday, January 31 from 4 p.m. to 5:30 pm. Snacks, coca-cola beverages and free game passes for the Men and Women's Golden Eagle Basketball games will be available.

The North Dakota Klezmer Ensemble will perform in Kiehle Rotunda on Friday, January 31 to kick off the Reveal Party event. We would like to encourage students, faculty and staff along with Community members to assist in the sculpting.

🕒 Friday, January 31 at 4:00pm to 5:30pm

📍 **Kiehle Rotunda**

Kiehle Building, 2900 University Ave, Crookston, MN 56716



### Women's Basketball vs Southwest Minnesota State University



### Men's Basketball vs Southwest Minnesota State University

*Looking Ahead*

- Guest Speaker: Washington Post Reporter, Christopher Ingraham - Thursday, February 6, 2020

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- Farm to Table Dinner - Thursday, August 13, 2020
  - \$100 general public
  - \$75 UMN Crookston faculty, staff, and students

