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LEADERSHIP LETTER

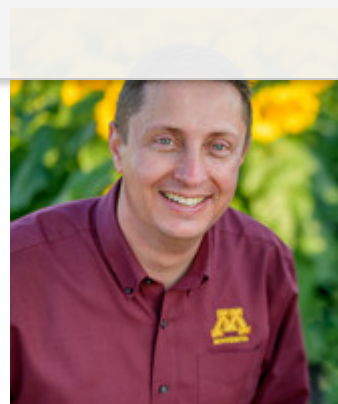
From the Vice Chancellor

On Friday, the Board of Regents endorsed the “sunrise plan” for reopening campuses for on-site instruction and services this fall. The situation continues to evolve and there are many decisions yet to be made, so we now turn our focus to implementation. For many of

our students, that means continuing to provide high quality, fully online instruction. For those who wish to complete their

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degrees on site, we will provide as much of an on-campus experience as possible while ensuring academic quality and promoting the health and safety of all members of our community.



The information below is a little more detailed than we typically provide through *Campus Weekly*, but I want you to have as much information as possible for your own planning as well as to help you respond to questions from others. We will be adding this information to our COVID-19 pages this week.

Promoting Health

Health experts suggest that consistent application of the following five strategies will significantly reduce the spread of COVID-19, and we will promote these strategies through educational and public information initiatives this fall including the "[Stop the Spread of COVID-19](#)" campaign.

1. **Hygiene.** Wash your hands for 20 seconds at least five times a day and following contact with others; cover your cough; and avoid touching your face.
2. **Physical Distancing.** Maintain a six-foot (two-meter) distance from others during interactions, especially when indoors.
3. **Monitoring the Duration of Interactions.** Limit interactions to 15 minutes when possible.
4. **Masking.** Wear a cloth mask, especially when unable to maintain six-foot social distancing or when interacting for more than 15 minutes.
5. **Screening, Testing, Isolating, and Treating.** Stay at home when you feel ill. Full screening, testing, isolating, and treated procedures will be prepared and required of members of our campus community.

Note that as of this moment, UMN is "strongly encouraging" but not requiring the use of masks. We will share additional information including whether faculty and staff will be able to require masks in their classrooms, offices, or other educational spaces as soon as it is available.

Fall Calendar

As originally planned, UMN Crookston will begin classes on Tuesday, August 25, but we will adjust the Fall 2020 calendar as follows:

- We will observe Labor Day as a holiday (no classes).
- We will hold classes on Friday, October 23, we will not reserve that day for

Professional Development Day.

- We will shorten the semester from 75 to 70 days, though with the addition of October 23, we end up with 71 days of instruction, which complies with UMN policy and HLC requirements.
- Beginning no later than Thursday, November 26 (Thanksgiving), we will move all coursework online while keeping the campus open.
- The week of Thursday, November 30 through December 4 will be our final week of regular classes (online only). We will hold final exams December 7-10 (online only).
- We will retain the same deadlines for refunds, dropping classes, mid-term alerts, and graduation applications.
- The deadline for submitting grades will remain Tuesday, December 22.

While classes shift online following Thanksgiving, the campus will remain open. Unlike the situation this past March, we will be able to plan for a healthy campus environment following the Thanksgiving break by utilizing guidelines from the Minnesota Department of Health and the UMN Medical Center. Many students will likely remain home after Thanksgiving while others will return to campus for jobs, essential employee roles on campus, or athletics. Most international students will need to stay on-campus, and there is the possibility that other international students will arrive. Some students will elect to return because our residence halls are a positive learning environment for them.

Options for Instructional Delivery

Online. A number of faculty have requested to teach their courses online, and we making it easier for students to take one or more classes online, whether for health reasons, to assist with scheduling, or out of personal preference. Courses that move online but continue to meet on specific days and times will still be listed as “on-campus” to avoid course scheduling conflicts, but the course notes will identify the course as meeting online.

Hybrid. In order to maintain 6 foot physical distancing, larger classes will be moved into Kiehle Auditorium, Bede Ballroom, Youngquist Auditorium and moderate-size classes will move into larger classrooms. Still, we anticipate instructors will often need to split their classes so some students meet in person on certain days while others meet in person on other days. To balance out the time, faculty may allow students who are not in the classroom to participate via Zoom in some instances. In other cases, students will complete online course modules while meeting less frequently with their instructors.

HyFlex. When possible, some faculty will deliver their classes using a HyFlex approach, meaning students will be able to elect to participate online or in-person.

Residence Halls

UMN Crookston will continue to provide students with a full array of residential options including the apartments in Heritage, Centennial, and Evergreen as well as Skyberg with its traditional-style shared kitchens and bathrooms. A greater proportion of requests for single rooms will be directed to Skyberg, and at least one wing of apartments will be reserved for isolation rooms in the event they are needed.

In the coming weeks, we will provide additional updates regarding dining options, student-athletics, co-curricular programming, and a full range of student success services. You can always access the latest information by navigating to our COVID-19 Campus Updates on our [website](#). If you have specific questions or requests, please notify your supervisor.

I recognize that in these extraordinary times, it will take tremendous efforts by our faculty, student affairs educators, staff, and students to reopen campus to ensure we are promoting equitable and inclusive education centered on student success. I deeply appreciate your time, commitment, and work in making this happen and taking care of our students.

John

CAMPUS UPDATES

Consider acquiring Personal Protective Equipment for your office

We are getting closer to returning to campus, and when we do eventually return, the ***"University strongly recommends that all students, staff, faculty, and those visiting our campuses and facilities wear a mask...."***

Here is a [link](#) to the Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) that has been secured and is available on U Market. You may want to consider ordering some to have on hand for your department when we return. We are not encouraging "stockpiling supplies" but having a few basic supplies on hand.

Board of Regents

The Board of Regents approved the addition of an online sub-plan to the existing Criminal

Justice B.S. degree, effective fall 2020. Online delivery allows UMN Crookston to provide broader alternatives to current and prospective students. The curriculum will closely align with the existing on-campus Criminal Justice B.S. curriculum and makes use of existing resources.

From UMN IT Security

Security Alert: Unemployment Fraud in Minnesota

We have received reports of fraudulent unemployment claims affecting UMN staff, including UMN Crookston staff. Victims receive a letter in the U.S. Mail from the Minnesota Department of Employment and Economic Development (DEED) notifying them that their unemployment benefits account has been created. However, these victims have never applied for unemployment benefits/payments. With unemployment reaching record highs, the State of Minnesota is inundated with requests for unemployment and unemployment insurance. This influx of requests makes it easy for a fraudulent request to hide or “get lost” in the system, and the expansion of unemployment benefits provided by the federal government makes this fraud more lucrative than normal.

UMN Crookston and UMN Twin Cities IT Departments have looked into this and have provided the following statement; *"At this time, we have no evidence to support that the scammers retrieved any employee information from University of Minnesota systems."*

If you have been affected by unemployment fraud, report it to the Minnesota Department of Employment and Economic Development as well as to UMN IT Security at security@umn.edu as soon as possible.

From the UMN Twin Cities Office of Public Engagement

[Summer of EngageMnT: Mobilizing University of Minnesota students to meet community needs through remote volunteer opportunities](#)—June 15 through August 7, 2020

The University of Minnesota's Summer of EngageMnT provides remote volunteer opportunities for undergraduate and graduate students from across the University's system to take action to respond to present and emerging needs of Minnesota communities impacted by the effects of COVID-19 and the aftermath of George Floyd's killing. Students will be matched with community partners to work on service activities that address a broad

range of societal issues; training will be provided as needed. The initiative is coordinated by the Office for Public Engagement, in collaboration with the Center for Community-

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Engaged Learning and the University COVID Action Network. [Learn more.](#)

HIGHLIGHTS

Emergency Student Fund

We are pleased to share the wonderful news that three of our international students who are not able to return to their home countries over the summer break due to the COVID-19 pandemic received Emergency Student Fund (ESF) from the Institute of International Education (IIE). UMN Crookston responded to IIE's call and nominated five students in April, and university leaders approved the use of some unrestricted donor funds to support the nomination.

Peiyue Shen, a junior majoring in software engineering was one of 310 students awarded \$2,500 by IIE in May. With the on-going pandemic, IIE committed another \$1 million to further aid another 300 students in need of support. Two more of our students received this IIE-ESF COVID-19 grant: Shuyu Wang, a junior majoring in finance, and Jianglong Huang, a junior majoring in international business. The IIE has a long history of providing emergency assistance to students facing emergencies around the world, and we are grateful to them for providing financial support to our students during this difficult time.

Supporting UMN Crookston

Employee at D&D's Thomfordes
Greenhouse supporting UMN Crookston
by wearing her university t-shirt while
working.



— FACULTY & STAFF UPDATES —

Farewell Party

Dr. Lisa Samuelson has accepted a position with North Dakota State University and her last day will be July 2. We would like to wish Lisa all the best in her new position. Lisa has been with UMN Crookston for nearly 18 years working with student affairs programs. She has also served as an Interim Associate Vice Chancellor of Student Affairs and Title IX Coordinator for the last several years. We appreciate all the work she has done and will miss her leadership on our campus.

A combination in-person (on the mall by the Gazebo) and virtual farewell party will be at **3 p.m. on Wednesday, July 1**. Please email to Diane Christianson at chri3776@crk.umn.edu to let her know whether you plan to attend in person or via Zoom. She will be in touch with you regarding any social distancing arrangements or will send you a Zoom link and password depending on your preference.

Farewell

- Lindsey McNeill, UMN Crookston UTOC

EVENTS

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