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**LEADERSHIP LETTER**

**From the Chancellor**

Dear Colleagues,

Fall classes begin August 25 and we will have our opening session Monday, August 17 from 9:30-11:30 a.m. We will

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share information on new developments and campus updates. Additionally, we will provide in-depth COVID-19 training that is not only important to know but required for all on our campus. Please plan to join us virtually at: <https://umn.zoom.us/j/92454473298?pwd=UXpIS0hjOHJPMdG0bUFwYmlvRCtBUT09> or if you would like to attend in person in Bede Ballroom please email Chris [cwinjum@umn.edu](mailto:cwinjum@umn.edu) to let him know. The number of seats is limited and will be honored on a first come, first serve basis.



If you can't attend the meeting, we will send out the Zoom link after the event. You will need to view it prior to coming to campus and classes starting on Tuesday, August 25. Even if you are not coming to campus, this training is required.

The return of instruction on our campus, reopening of residential housing and dining, and resumption of other student-facing services means there will be more functions that need to be performed in-person and many individuals can no longer work from home. Over the summer, a process was developed and implemented for individuals and laboratories who could not work from home to [request to return to work](#).

That being said, and consistent with Governor Walz's executive orders, [Executive Order 20-74](#) "any worker who can work from home must do so," and the University continues to comply strictly with that directive. Our first priority is the health and safety of our University community; de-densifying the campus is an important contributor to health and safety, so your first consideration should be to continue in a remote work environment

If you have been approved to be on campus, or need to make a trip to campus, we must all follow University policies on [physical distancing](#), [use of face coverings](#), [health behaviors](#), and guidance on [reporting and communicating infections](#).

Looking forward to talking with you all next week. Have a safe and healthy week.

Chancellor Mary

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**CAMPUS UPDATES**

### Reusable Masks

Facilities and Operations has received the branded UMN Crookston reusable masks. Department heads, please contact [Dave Danforth](#) with the number of faculty and staff you have and two masks will be provided for each person and delivered to the departmental office for the department to distribute.

### Office Cleaning

Facilities and Operations will no longer be performing weekly office cleaning in private offices; this does not affect multi person offices or offices that have high student traffic. This change is being made due to requirements to disinfect high touch areas in public spaces multiple times per day. Faculty and staff in private offices will need to either bring their office waste to one of the waste stations in the corridor of their building or may leave their office waste outside their office door at the end of the work day on Monday. Trash will be picked up by Facilities staff on Tuesday morning starting at 6 a.m.

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## **From Information Technology**

### ***Update G Suite apps before Aug. 12***

Google recently announced that in an effort to improve performance and security for its products, G Suite mobile (Android and iOS) and desktop apps with versions older than December 2018 may stop working on August 12. To ensure you don't experience service disruptions, [update your G Suite mobile and desktop apps to the latest versions](#).

You may have heard about Ransomware attacks in the news; including how [hospitals](#) and even [city governments](#) have paid ransom to recover access to their files. The [July 2020 edition of the "OUCH!"](#) newsletter covers Ransomware: how it works and how to protect yourself from it.

In May we shared information about securely working from home. Today, as so many of us are still working, connecting, and learning from home, we still need to pay attention to creating a cyber secure home. [The June edition of the "OUCH!"](#) newsletter covers four simple steps to do just that.

A reminder that as more and more devices have internet connectivity, known as Internet of Things (IoT) devices, keeping the devices updated and secure presents a challenge. IoT devices require additional steps prior to connecting to the network as well as continuous monitoring while connected. For guidance, see two new resources: [Securing Internet of Things \(IoT\) Devices on Campus](#) and [Securing Internet of Things \(IoT\) Devices at Home](#).

We encourage you to share QUCHI with your family, friends, and coworkers. IT staff

please forward to administrative staff, faculty, and other colleagues in your department.

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### **Enrollment Management**

Admissions is excited to welcome prospective students and families to campus for tours starting in August! We have implemented many health and safety precautions to ensure our visitors and the campus community have a safe and enjoyable experience. We are structuring the visits so all the major components are still a part of the experience (Admissions/Student Ambassador, tour, Financial Aid, faculty meeting, coach meeting), and there will be flexibility in how those are incorporated. August will be a good test-run to see how the logistics work and we will provide more details to the campus community once we have solidified the layout. Stay tuned for more info in the next update!

### **Application Update:**

We will open our application for all 2021 applicants on September 1, 2020.

***SHOUT OUT TO PHIL BAIRD:*** A huge thank you and shout out to Phil Baird, who went above and beyond in helping with a prospective student. Phil kept notes of his meeting with the student and the parent. When the parent called with questions, our staff reached out to Phil and he was able to convey the mother's comments and concerns! The relationship Phil establishes with prospective students turns them into enrolled students. The Admissions office is very appreciative of faculty assisting in the recruitment process.

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### **Department Name Change**

University of Minnesota Provost Croson approved the request from the Crookston campus to change the name of the Liberal Arts and Education (LAE) department to the Humanities, Social Sciences, and Education (HSSE) department. The name change was approved by the department faculty during the February 27, 2020 department meeting.

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### **NSIC and NCAA Update**

On Monday, July 27, the Northern Sun Intercollegiate Conference Board of Directors unanimously supported a delay to the start of NSIC fall athletic competition.

The first permissible practice for men's and women's cross country will be Wednesday,

September 2, with the first date of competition scheduled for Saturday, September 26. The first permissible practice for volleyball and soccer will be Tuesday, September 8, with the first date of competition scheduled for Friday, October 2.

Updated schedules for volleyball and soccer can be found at: [NorthernSun.org/2020FallSchedules](https://NorthernSun.org/2020FallSchedules).

On Wednesday, August 5, due to the operational, logistical and financial challenges presented by the COVID-19 pandemic, NCAA Division II, of which Minnesota Crookston is a member, canceled its seven 2020 fall championships.

For more information click [here](#).

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### **Golden Eagle Athletics Committee on Diversity and Inclusion**

Krayton Nash will be the chair of the new Golden Eagle Athletics Committee on Diversity and Inclusion. The committee believes an inclusive and diverse environment provides an atmosphere which allows all staff, coaches and student-athletes to attain their greatest potential, promote a sense of belonging, and achieve the greatest benefit for themselves and the student-athletes they serve.

The committee is comprised of:

- Ashley Brekken, Athletics Administrative Assistant
- Kamille Meyer, Assistant AD/Title IX Coordinator
- Sarah Rauen, Head Volleyball Coach
- Shawn Smith, Director of Athletics Communication
- Krayton Nash, (Chair) Head Tennis Coach/Associate Head Men's Basketball Coach

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## **HIGHLIGHTS**

### **Grants**

Last week, the University of Minnesota Crookston received a \$100,000, one-year grant from the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) Rural Development (RD) agency

to fund the Mano Amiga program of the [Vedan Center for Rural Economic Development](#).

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The Vedan Center works to increase employment and entrepreneurship opportunities among the growing Latino community in Crookston and Polk County areas surrounding the university. UMN Crookston officials said the University plans to expand the Mano Amiga program into additional geographic areas as the project takes root and grows.

For more information, click [here](#).

## Have You Seen Us?

The University of Minnesota Crookston has some great new billboards across the area featuring our I AM CROOKSTON theme as well as UMN Crookston alumni.



We are on billboards in Crookston, Grand Forks, Fargo and Detroit Lakes. If you see us, be sure to snap a photo and tag us on social media @umncrookston.

## — FACULTY & STAFF UPDATES —

### UMN Crookston Staff Member Interview - Savala DeVoge, Dean of Student Engagement

#### 1. Tips for on-campus and online students:

- Be *open-minded* to doing things differently. For now, we're still working around how to have the best student experience possible while also being safe and following CDC and state guidelines.
- *Don't be shy*. I want to get to know you. I want to hear your ideas of ways we can make this college experience the best it can be for you. New things happen when people share ideas.
- *Use your resources*. The current national climate has been difficult for many of you and we have a long way to go as a country in dealing with issues of race, diversity,



equity, and inclusion all on top of living through a global pandemic. Know that these things will continue to shape the way you experience life as a whole for a while. Use

your campus resources to help work through these things.

- *Be creative.* My goal, and honestly my role, is to help students know that they belong here at University of Minnesota Crookston. We need to continue to find ways to bring our on-campus students and online students "together" in ways we haven't before.

## 2. Favorites:

- *Song:* Won't Back Down, Tom Petty. It's always been a motivational song for me. You can put me up against anything and I'm going to face the challenge and give it my best shot. I've got quite a competitive streak.
- *Activity:* Video/board gaming (yes, I'm going to cheat and name two activities). I'm one of those people who sometimes wants to spend time alone and sometimes wants to spend time with a few close friends. Gaming gives me the chance to "get away" for a bit and not have to worry about all the responsibility and just have fun.

## 3. Fun Anecdote:

My partner and I love going to home sporting events - it doesn't matter what sport it is. We used to attend with a lot of his friends and could be quite a loud bunch. We never say anything mean or make fun of people, but the basketball refs at The College of Idaho games got to where they wouldn't stand near our corner because we would comment so much on bad and missed calls.

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## Welcome

- Morgan Pyles, MST Department, UMN Crookston

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## Farewell

A farewell from Matt Peterson and Megan Beck:

To UMN Crookston Campus Community,

As a Residential Life Area Coordinator and as an Assistant Director for Student Activities, we both have



worked a lot during the years helping students be successful at UMN Crookston. We're thankful for the connections we've been able to make throughout the years in northwest

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Minnesota.

**Matt:** This unique live-on campus position, residential life area coordinator, allowed me to supervise the community adviser's and work collaboratively with many people on the UMN Crookston campus. A big shout out to Gary Willhite, Director of Residential Life/Security Services, for being an amazing supervisor throughout the years to help me to develop further. Some of my most cherished memories include the residential life art activities I was able to facilitate on the campus throughout the years with ceramics and painting. We had a lot of engagement with these types of activities. Also, some of the challenging moments include the burst pipe in Heritage that caused an evacuation during some of the coldest temperatures I have ever had to endure in my life! I feel the staff really came together to ensure everyone was safe and secure. I enjoyed being able to meet with students for conduct related issues and helping them find positive alternative solutions to behavioral decisions.



My new role consists of being the Garrett Hall Coordinator for Campus Living at East Carolina University in Greenville, North Carolina. My new responsibilities include being primarily focused on the development of the on-campus living experience for students in Garrett Hall. This building consists of two living and learning communities (Art & Design and Theatre & Dance). I also work to ensure people follow the CDC guidelines of wearing a mask, social distancing, and practicing good hygiene.

**Megan:** In 2016 after finishing up with my bachelors degree, I was fortunate to move to Crookston to be with my now husband, Matt. Shortly after I started in my role as the assistant director of student activities. Lisa Samuelson, who was my supervisor, was not only that but a fantastic mentor who helped me to grow. My favorite aspect of my position at UMN Crookston was working directly with the students. What I cherished most was working with Golden Eagle Entertainment and the Information Desk Staff, and more recently with Welcome Weekend and the Student Orientation Leaders. These student leaders all worked incredibly hard in these extra roles they took on campus and I was fortunate enough to be a part of that journey for them. Some of my most cherished memories are some of the great activities that were on campus ranging from Homecoming, Welcome Weekend, Final Friday Funday, the NACA conferences with the Golden Eagle Entertainment board, the Roots of the Red River Valley exhibition, and so much more.

Currently I am in Greenville at East Carolina University with Matt! I have accepted a



significant scholarship to the Gemological Institute of America for their Graduate Bench  
Jeweler Program for a term in 2021

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Marlowe has let us know that she will greatly miss Crookston, as that was her first home. She absolutely loves living in residence halls and interacting with the students. In fact, whenever the students were gone on break, she'd check down the hallways just in case someone was around and couldn't wait for all of them to come back to campus. She'll miss seeing all the friendly faces, chasing leaves in the wind, and of course all the sticks around campus.



Most of all, we'll miss all the relationships we developed with all the UMN Crookston employees, students, and community members.

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## EVENTS

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