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## LEADERSHIP LETTER

### From the Chancellor

Greetings,

For those of you living in Northern Minnesota, I hope you are enjoying the waning days of summer and the crisp fall mornings. I personally love the smells of autumn and the harvest

about ½ mile area in the more than 14 miles of paved paths that is alive with the brilliant hues of turning sumac. It is my autumn heaven. Take time to find your space, get out and enjoy it. Many studies have shown that being outdoors is beneficial to mental health, creativity and even cognitive functions.



Some of you have shared with me your questions about the number of students in quarantine. You've observed many students who are not in class because of quarantine but the numbers of the dashboard don't reflect what you are seeing. Students who have had close contact with a COVID-19 positive person (determined by the Polk County Health Department) are asked to quarantine. The numbers on our dashboard indicate the students who are currently in our residence facilities as there is no way for us to accurately report for students living off-campus. It does not include students who may have chosen to isolate (tested positive for COVID-19) or quarantined at their homes or live off-campus. Whenever there is a change in numbers, the dashboard is updated. The link for the dashboard is <https://protectthenest.crk.umn.edu/>

We've postponed the in-person 2020 commencement that was tentatively scheduled for October. State law precludes us from having gatherings of more than 250 during these COVID-times. Our 2020 graduates will be invited to participate with the 2021 graduates. Fingers crossed the worst of this pandemic will be behind us so that we can celebrate then. We've also cancelled the Homecoming events scheduled for early November. Students in CSA are planning a Home-going event prior to leaving at Thanksgiving. More details to come as they plan the events.

We all have preferences about how and when we want to be informed of things going on. Please let me know via this link [E-Update Communications Feedback](#) and your anonymous response will be noted. Your comments are very helpful in determining how best to ensure you are receiving the information you need..

Our hearts go out to those who are experiencing the wildfires in the West. It is very frightening when you are told you have an hour to evacuate. It is a good practice regardless of where you live to have your key possessions if not in a "go bag," at least assembled in your mind what you would take and how you would exit. Since I've been at this thing called life for quite a while, and lived several places, worked international development projects and travelled a few places – I've had the chance to experience almost every natural and manmade disaster from hurricanes, tornados (a lot of those), sand storms, snow storms, derechos, wildfires, earthquakes, gas leaks, hazardous chemical spills to a volcanic eruption, blizzards, war zones and a riot. In fact, the only one

experiences forced me to question my mortality. I share this part of my life with you for one reason — you never know what is around the corner. Be vigilant, be prepared and never take a day for granted.

Chancellor Mary

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## BREAKING NEWS ALERT

### U.S. News Rankings

Recently, UMN Crookston ranked #1 in Top Public Schools, #18 in Top Performers on Social Mobility, and #27 in Top Regional Colleges in the Midwest.



For the full ranking breakdown, click [here](#).

*Special note from Chancellor Charles Casey Emeriti*

"Mary,

Congratulations to you and everyone at UMC. Great recognition of the hard work and commitment to success of the campus. Take a few moments to celebrate amid all the issues of today.

Chuck and Barbara"

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## CAMPUS UPDATES

### University of Minnesota System Committees

#### Student Academic Integrity Committee (SAIC)

Dr. Tony Kern will represent the University of Minnesota Crookston on the Student Academic Integrity Committee (SAIC). Part of the duties and responsibilities of the committee is to review the appropriateness and adequacy of the mechanisms to deal with academic integrity in the University as a whole, on each of the campuses, and in each of the colleges. The committee is also charged to make recommendations to the appropriate campus administrators and the University Senate for revisions of University policies that

1. The prevalence of academic dishonesty within the college, including the most common means students may use for cheating.
2. What active measures each college is using to prevent academic dishonesty.
3. Current challenges that each college sees in maintaining academic integrity.
4. What resources are needed to improve academic integrity.

### **Public Engagement Council (PEC) Committee**

Dr. Teresa Spaeth, Veden Chair will be representing University of Minnesota Crookston on the system-wide Public Engagement Council (PEC), chaired by Associate Vice President for Public Engagement Andy Furco. PEC serves as the University of Minnesota's consultative body for issues pertaining to the University's public engagement agenda. The work of PEC informs the University's senior officers and governing bodies on critical and important issues regarding publicly-engaged work across the University system. The council's recommendations and initiatives focus on improving the University structures, policies, procedures, and programs in ways that further the institutionalization of all forms of public engagement and the alignment of the public engagement agenda to the University's key strategic priorities. Participation on the PEC will advance UMN-Crookston's efforts to receive the Community Engaged designation from the Carnegie Foundation. UMN-Crookston faculty, staff, and students can reach out to Teresa or to Andy Furco with any issues or concerns they would like PEC to discuss.

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### **Online Learning Resources**

[New website launched to support online learning - Learn Online -](#)

<https://online.umn.edu/learn-online>

[Prepare students for learning online \(UMN\) \(Links to an external site.\)](#)

- To foster student success with online learning, faculty and instructors are invited to share an enrollment link with their students to [Learning Online 101 \(Links to an external site.\)](#), a self-paced and optional online course. Learn more about the course and get tips for how you might engage students about what they learned, all on the [Foster Student Success webpage \(Links to an external site.\)](#).
- [Learning Online 101 - Outline Link](#)

[Online Student Success Guide from UMN Crookston Student Success Center - Google Doc link](#)

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## From University and Alumni Relations

We are looking for suggestions of students to be involved in a Focus Group. We would meet virtually to show them examples of ads, videos, website, design, and communication. Please provide your student suggestion contact info by [clicking here](#).



We are looking for students in 10th grade through freshman year of college who would be a good resource! This is not a huge time commitment. Possibly 1-2 times per month. There will be incentives provided for students who are involved.

For questions, contact Kelsey Engelstad at [petro087@crk.umn.edu](mailto:petro087@crk.umn.edu).

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## From Enrollment Management

Our application is open and Spring and Fall 2021 recruitment is in full swing. We are planning virtual high school visits, attending virtual college recruitment fairs, and working with other system campuses on recruitment events.

Admissions, Athletics, and University & Alumni Relations are working with a video production company to produce videos for our campus. They were on campus this past week getting footage of the campus, classrooms, student testimonials and more.

University & Alumni Relations in collaboration with Admissions are redesigning our homepage, admission pages, and academic pages. The new webpage is set to launch early October!

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## Distinguished Teaching Awards

### Nomination materials now available for 2020-21 Distinguished Teaching Awards

[Nomination materials](#) for the Horace T. Morse - University of Minnesota Alumni Association Award for Outstanding Contributions to Undergraduate Education, and the Award for Outstanding Contributions to Graduate and Professional Education, are now available. These awards recognize and reward teachers' commitment to quality education at the U of

deadlines, which are earlier.

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### **From Financial Aid**

Fall 2020 Office Hours and Information

September 8 (Tuesday only) - 8:00 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. By appointment only

September 14 -November 23 (Mondays only) - 8:00 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. \*By appointment only

November 24 – January 1 - No office hours Staff available via phone, email, and Zoom

There will be no change to phone and email communication. Staff will be fully available Monday – Friday from 8 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. for phone calls and email communication. We are also encouraging students and their families to set-up Zoom calls with any one of our staff members. We have had great success since the move to remote work with Zoom calls. It allows for students and staff to interact in face-to-face communication with the ability to share screens and talk through questions and/or issues a student has.

To set-up a ZOOM call with one of the financial aid staff members simply send an email to [umc-fa@umn.edu](mailto:umc-fa@umn.edu) with your requested time. A staff member will create the meeting invite with the link to the ZOOM call that will be password protected.

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### **From the Wellness Center**

The Wellness Center is expanding building hours and capacity starting next week. Twelve people will now be able to sign up per hour and we will be open from 6:00 a.m. - 9:00 p.m. Monday-Friday and Saturday 10:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.. Sunday will remain closed. Outdoor activities on the mall and intramurals will continue from 6:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.. Contact activities and group activities only be offered outdoors. The time slots for sign up are as followed:

6:00 a.m. - 7:00 a.m.

7:30 a.m. - 8:30 a.m.

12:00 p.m. - 1:00 p.m.

1:30 p.m.- 2:30 p.m.

3:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.

4:30 p.m.- 5:30 p.m.

6:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.

7:30 p.m.- 8:30 p.m.

Thank you to everyone who is following the new policies and procedures. Please continue to wear your masks, wash your hands, wipe down your equipment after use.

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### From Information Technology

**Beginning Wednesday, September 16, 2020, [Duo Security](#) will be required for VPN access.** This will affect general remote access VPN pools (Split Tunnel and Full Tunnel) and is being implemented for compliance with the University's [Information Security Policy](#) (Appendix AAAM.B).

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### From Facilities

#### Campus Heat:

We will be starting to fire the boiler the week of 9/14 to bring the heat up in all the academic buildings as well as Skyberg Hall. It normally takes about a week to come up to full temperature.

#### Dowell and Owen Lab remodels:

Due to some supply chain issues related to COVID-19, some of the manufacturers have not been able to make their delivery dates. This has moved the completion out approximately two weeks from the original expected completion date. Dowell is now expected to be complete October 2, Owen is set for completion on October 9.

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— FACULTY & STAFF UPDATES —

From the Student Success Center

and registered. Good job everyone!

We would like to introduce our Graduate Student Assistants.

**Avianna McGregor:**

Hi! My name is Avi McGregor, I am currently working as a graduate assistant for career services at the Student Success Center. My work includes mentoring students about their future internships and career opportunities, and assisting students in writing proper cover letters and/or resumes. I received my undergraduate degree in Psychology with a minor in Human Development and Family Science at North Dakota State University (NDSU). I am currently in my first year of the Educational Leadership graduate program, also at NDSU (sorry bison, but go golden eagles!).



Fun facts!! One time when I was in India someone thought I was a famous person. I love to garden, but I recently learned that pickles are cucumbers (why aren't they called pickled cucumbers??)

[mcgre257@crk.umn.edu](mailto:mcgre257@crk.umn.edu)

**Isnino (Nina) Shukri**

My name is Isnino Shukri, I go by Nina. A fun fact about me, is that I come from a US Military family, and have lived in 7 different states. I am pursuing a Masters of Science in Higher Education at the University of North Dakota. I am passionate about diversity & inclusion, and believe in a global mindset. I really like cooking and trying out different recipes from all over the globe. If you have an interesting recipe to share with me, please feel free to reach out to me!



[shukr003@crk.umn.edu](mailto:shukr003@crk.umn.edu)

## Relations

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

Meet new people and get involved even if it's out of your comfort zone. Don't worry...the person next to you feels the same but you may be meeting a friend for life. College is where you'll make the best memories and meet life-long friends. Engage in your classes and with your instructors.



### Favorite Activity:

Being present with family and friends. Like so many others, I can't wait to travel to spend time with family and friends I haven't seen in so long!

### Favorite Travel location:

Hawaii to the island of Maui as that's where our oldest daughter lives. Can't wait to be able to travel to see her again. On my bucket list is Italy as that is where my family is from.



### Fun anecdote/story:

I'm a city girl, turned country wife. My first year on the farm I realized I forgot to get an anniversary card for my husband. He was in the field so I took the road behind our house rather than the usual road so he wouldn't see me. We live 11 miles southwest of Crookston and I found myself in Eldred (a little too far south) rather than in Crookston. I've struggled a number of times to get to my destination or to find my husband in the correct field as I travel on gravel roads.

## MEDIA MENTIONS

### **18 on-campus students quarantining at UMN Crookston**

As of late Tuesday afternoon, according to an online dashboard launched by the University of Minnesota Crookston to provide updates on COVID-19's impact on campus, 18 UMN

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The dashboard can be found at <https://protectthenest.crk.umn.edu/>

Read the full story on the Crookston Times [website](#).

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### **Lake Park's Lewis earns \$400 education scholarship**

Lewis is a senior at the University of Minnesota Crookston, majoring in agriculture education. While at UMC, Lewis has been very involved in the following activities: Alpha Lambda Delta (UMC Honors Society), Collegiate FFA, FFA Officer, Ag-Arama, UMC Choir, UMC Jazz Band, MN Ag Ed Ambassador Program, Lake Park Legion Parade of Trees Volunteer, FFA Alumni President's Circle Program, UMC Student Tutor for Natural Resources Department and was able to study abroad in France in 2018.

Read the full story on the Detroit Lakes Tribune [website](#).

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**CLICK FOR ALL EVENTS**

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