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**LEADERSHIP LETTER**

**From the Vice Chancellor**

Perhaps my most cherished blessing is my marriage. Joy and I have been married for more than 18 years, and she is still the person who, more than any other, pushes me to be better. She reminds me every day of the person and leader I aspire to be. She challenges

expectations, but when I do, she's the first to remind me to apologize, own up, and do better next time.

While ours is a great marriage, it took years and hard work to build. Looking back, I am especially thankful for a small men's group that I connected with through church as well as a core group of male friends who helped me through some of the most challenging moments. There were times when I needed to connect with other men to help me become the man and husband I aspired to be.

Next Tuesday is election day in the U.S., and it is possible that it may be weeks before we determine who is elected to many significant positions including President of the United States. As the results emerge, many of us will need to gather with others who share our political stances, whether left, right, or center. Likewise, given the nature of this year's election, others will need to gather with individuals who share racial, gender, or other identities. Some may question such gatherings as a sign of division, but I challenge you to look more deeply. While such groups can become a source of division, they are more often a necessary part of ultimately coming together in ways that are truly equitable and inclusive.

### **Spring Break**

Over the past weeks, we have received several questions about spring break and the spring academic calendar. We made the decision to cancel spring break because of the significant risks related to the increased student travel associated with spring break. I recognize that this is not a threat to online students like you, but you will still lose your spring break, which can be an important mental health break in the middle of the term. I assure you that we took this into consideration, and while we considered separate calendars for online and on-campus students, it was a practical impossibility to facilitate in light of university policy and the fact some of our students take both online and on-campus classes.

Note that we will maintain three-day weekends associated with the Martin Luther King, Jr. holiday on January 18, the Professional Development Day on February 15, and the floating holiday on April 2. We will further replace spring break (originally scheduled from March 8-12 with a single day off on Wednesday, March 10, and with two study days prior to finals (April 30 and May 3). While our asynchronous online classes do not line up with days of the week in the same way as on-campus classes, faculty will make adjustments to provide some additional flexibility for our online students.

Vice Chancellor Hoffman

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## CAMPUS UPDATES

**Reminder to apply for the Sexual Misconduct Hearing Committee**

About 10 days ago the University community was sent an email asking interested individuals to consider service on the Sexual Misconduct Hearing Committee (SMHC). The SMHC is the University's system-wide hearing body to consider complaints of sexual misconduct involving students, staff, and faculty in accordance with the University's [Administrative Policy on Sexual Harassment, Sexual Assault, Stalking, and Relationship Violence](#). The SMHC performs a critical function at the University, and we seek thoughtful, deliberative community members to hear these important matters.

As this committee is system-wide, I am asking you to please consider applying so that the SMHC will have adequate representation from our campus.

Please review the [SMHC Selection Process and Criteria](#) for more information and apply by Sunday, November 1, 2020, using the [SMHC Application](#). Questions can be directed to [smhc@umn.edu](mailto:smhc@umn.edu).

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**UMN Crookston Receives \$1.35 Million in Upgrades From HEAPR Funding**

The University of Minnesota Crookston received \$1.35 million dollars of High Education Asset Preservation and Replacement (HEAPR) funding in a capital investment bonding bill signed Wednesday by Governor Tim Walz. The bonding bill includes \$38.5 million worth of HEAPR improvements to the University of Minnesota System campuses, research and outreach centers and field stations.

Read the full news release [here](#).

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**HIGHLIGHTS**

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**Student Stories**

Agricultural business major, Roseline Kanssole, shares her story of how she came to UMN Crookston and what has made her experience as a Golden Eagle so special.



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### **Drive Thru Groceries**

Harvest Church Crookston, in partnership with the United States Department of Agriculture's Farmers to Families program, is offering free drive-thru groceries from 10 a.m. to 12 p.m. on Saturday, October 31, at the Crookston High School parking lot. Each family will receive a box or boxes (depending on family size) of food containing fresh produce, dairy items, meat/protein, and milk. Students are welcome to attend.

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### **Student Feature: Vinayak Sharma**

Vinayak Sharma, a native from New Delhi, India, never truly saw himself pursuing his undergraduate career in the United States. Continuing his education in a country other than his own was a thought that had not crossed Sharma's mind until he flew halfway across the world in the 8th grade. Looking back, Sharma appreciates the steps he took that led him to where he is today, and finds it incredibly rewarding.

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

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### **From International Programs**

We know temperatures will drop rather rapidly in October and catch our international students by surprise, so we organized a shopping trip to Fargo. This was important for our

Bustos, a native of Colombia, will be experiencing her first winter here, so we wanted to make sure she would be warmly clad when the first snow falls. We also made stops at ethnic grocery stores to pick up foods the campus community will be able to taste during International Week (November 9-13).



Be sure you keep your calendars free for International Week! Brown Dining Room will feature cuisines from: Canada, Japan, Rwanda, Ireland, and India. We planned the event at the end of the week because Diwali Celebration falls on November 14. Mark your calendars for great food and great cultural experiences. One such experience is the creation of a sand mandala which will be available from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. each day in the International Lounge. Another learning experience is attending a Language Corner where you can speak freely in another language while having coffee/tea and snacks. These language corners will feature: Monday, Spanish; Tuesday, Japanese; Wednesday, French; Thursday, Mandarin; and Friday, Hindi. These sessions will also allow students who speak the language to visit freely and for beginners who would like to learn emergency phrases to practice speaking in a warm and friendly environment.

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### **Maroon and Gold Winner**

Congrats to this weeks maroon and gold winner, Eric Morgan! Want a chance to win next week? Simply tag @umncrookston or dm your photo! \*You can enter every week in October!



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### **From the Student Success Center**

November is Native  
American Heritage month,  
Join us in person or via  
Zoom for a conversation



**CONVERSATIONS ABOUT RACE OVER COFFEE:**

# **NATIVE AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH**

*November is Native American Heritage month. Join us in person or via Zoom for a conversation about Native history and heritage.*

**NOVEMBER 10TH**  
**WHEN: 12:30 PM TO 1:30 PM**  
**WHERE: EVERGREEN CLASSROOM**

ZOOM ID: 944 5133 8008

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**CLICK FOR ALL EVENTS**

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