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## LEADERSHIP LETTER

### From the Chancellor

Happy November greetings! Tomorrow is Election Day. If you are still hanging on to an absentee ballot DO NOT put it in the mail--but instead drop it off. This came from our government relations people Friday afternoon.

You can read the decision here:

<https://www.startribune.com/read-the-ruling-on-minnesota-s-absentee-ballot-extension/572917851/>. Due to this, the Secretary of State is urging people NOT to mail in ballots anymore, and to use other options instead.

1. Drop ballots off at an early voting drop box or county election office. (locations at <https://www.sos.state.mn.us/elections-voting/find-county-election-office/>)

2. Use in-person early voting, with extended weekend hours. (locations at <http://z.umn.edu/votes>)

3. Vote the traditional way on Election Day, Tuesday, November 3



### **Changes in Enrollment Management**

Mike Griffin, director of enrollment management, will be leaving UMN Crookston at the end of the academic year. Jessica Hanson will step in immediately as interim director of enrollment management. Mike will work with Jessica and Janessa Quanrud, assistant director, over the next eight months to facilitate a smooth transition and continued progress with new student enrollment. Mike, Jessica, Janessa and their team have done an excellent job of recruiting students during this difficult COVID-19 pandemic and are off to a strong start for the 2021-22 year.

As you may recall, Mike started with us as a consultant to guide our admissions office and was later selected as the director. In addition to supporting and mentoring Jessica and Janessa, Mike will assist with increased usage, analysis, and capabilities of our new enrollment management software, Slate; develop specific marketing campaigns for targeted potential student populations; institute strategies for greater leveraging with financial aid; and other important admissions functions. The financial aid team will also continue to report to Mike.

### **United Way**

Our United Way campaign wraps up Friday, November 6 and we need your support. In anticipation of so much disruption of COVID-19, we significantly lowered our usual campus giving from \$13,000 to \$6,000. Sadly, we aren't reaching this goal. We have raised \$4,554, which is 75% of our goal of \$6,000.

Of the 348 NWROC, Extension, and UMN Crookston staff/faculty, 97 have returned their envelopes or emailed indicating their intentions with only 29 people who have contributed

## Strategic Planning

The systemwide strategic plan for the University of Minnesota was approved earlier this summer by the Board of Regents. Metrics for the systemwide plan are being discussed and developed. It is our intent, where appropriate, to marry the system wide plan and metrics with our campus strategic plan and metrics. If you would like to be part of the UMN Crookston workgroups who will convene in December to begin this analysis, please let Chris Winjum (cwinjum) know by November 20.

The systemwide strategic plan can be found at:

[https://president.umn.edu/sites/president.umn.edu/files/2020-10/SWSP%20PPT\\_FINAL%20101520.pdf](https://president.umn.edu/sites/president.umn.edu/files/2020-10/SWSP%20PPT_FINAL%20101520.pdf)

Our strategic plan and metrics are at: [https://www.crk.umn.edu/strategic-planning\\_](https://www.crk.umn.edu/strategic-planning_)

I have an election day memory from the mid 90s etched in my mind. My youngest daughter, CeCe, was just learning to read. We were driving in the adjacent town of Boone, Iowa and the mayor at that time was George Maybe. Mayor Maybe was up for election and had yard signs posted. There was also a referendum that year in which voters had the choice to vote yes or no. Yard signs were everywhere. She said to me, “ I don’t get it. I thought when you voted you made a choice. I get voting “no,” or “yes”, but why would you vote Maybe?”

Now she is all grown up--and thought she understood the election process. But she called today and said jokingly, “I’m confused about elections again. I just saw this yard sign in my neighborhood.”

Someone in Minneapolis was having some fun with this sign or longed for simpler or different times. The Constitution clearly states that to be President, you do have to be alive. Ross Perot left us in 2019.



Remember to vote.

Have a great week,

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## CAMPUS UPDATES

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### **Last Chance Flu Clinics**

The last faculty/staff flu shot clinic will be Friday, November 6 2:30-4:30 p.m. in Bede Ballroom.

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### **From Information Technology**

Starting in November 2020, current faculty and staff will need to use their University internet ID and password to access Acrobat Pro. No action is required, and users will automatically be prompted to login once the change is implemented.

For details about this change and instructions for the new sign-in scenarios and processes, visit the [Adobe Acrobat Pro Licensing Changes](#) webpage.

If you have any questions about this change, contact the Computer Help Desk at [umchelp@crk.umn.edu](mailto:umchelp@crk.umn.edu) or 218-281-8000.

### **Introducing Minnie, a new chatbot for instructors**

Technology Help is piloting a new chatbot for U of M faculty and instructors. “Minnie” is designed to answer how-to questions for tools like Canvas that are commonly used to teach classes remotely. You’ll find Minnie on the Canvas support page as well as several other places on the Technology Help website. Provide feedback to help improve the chatbot.

### **Take the Minnesota Broadband Speed Test**

Support U of M outreach by participating in the Minnesota Broadband Speed Test and share the test link ([z.umn.edu/speed-test](https://z.umn.edu/speed-test)) with colleagues, friends, and family. The data will be shared with legislators who can use it to apply for grants and garner other support to improve broadband access across the state, connecting people to education, research, and discoveries.

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## Congratulations

The Dimensions of Teachers Who Write and The Essence of A Writing Life" (MS #1193), by Shari L. Daniels, has been published to Teaching/Writing: The Journal of Writing Teacher Education.

<https://scholarworks.wmich.edu/wte/vol9/iss2/3>

## HIGHLIGHTS

### From International Programs

Halloween would not be complete without jack-o'-lanterns. Although our international students did not go trick or treating this year, we made sure they continued our annual Halloween tradition and had them carve their own pumpkins. This event was co-sponsored by GEE (Golden Eagle Entertainment) where both international and domestic students enthusiastically joined in the fun of carving and later continued their fun by painting pumpkins. Childhood memories certainly were recreated. Pumpkins were judged, prizes were awarded, and many were nicely displayed outside of the Student Center. Mark your calendars for International Week coming up November 13-19, 2020.



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### Monday Motivation

University of Minnesota Crookston sophomore soccer player, Alyssa Pavlacic (St. Charles, Mo.), was featured in this morning's NSIC Monday Motivation series. Her favorite quote sends a strong message all of us can utilize in our lives.

"Strength happens in the moments when you think you can't go on, but you keep going on anyway."

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## **Daml Overcomes Obstacles to Forge Path from Alaska to UMN Crookston and Beyond**

When most people think of the North Pole, they of course conjure up images of a jolly fat man named Santa Claus, reindeer, and elves. For Lindsey Daml, North Pole, in Alaska that is, is home. In reality, Daml's North Pole is nestled near the great Alaskan wilderness close to the Tanana River and just two hours from the majestic Denali National Park and Mount McKinley.

Daml came from North Pole, Alaska over 2,700 miles south to Crookston, Minn. It has sometimes been a rocky road for the Golden Eagle soccer player, as she has battled through injuries her entire career. Just when she thought she was healthy to return, COVID-19 hit and canceled her fall season. It was to be her final season, a season in which she built herself up from injury in order to play. Despite the pitfalls and rocky terrain, Daml has taken an outstanding perspective on her journey at UMN Crookston as she prepares to obtain a degree in natural resources, and prepare herself for her next journey, whether that includes soccer or not.

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

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## **Student Stories**

UMN Crookston senior Connor Humble, a double major in sports and recreation management and finance, discusses what brought him to Minnesota Crookston and what has made it a special place.





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Come listen and ask  
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## Nov. 18th:

Prairie Lounge  
12 pm to 1 pm

The first 20  
guests will  
receive a  
free meal

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