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LEADERSHIP LETTER

From the Chancellor

Dear Students,

collective support for leaders, it is now. In part, this is the case because we are in the midst of a historic pandemic that touches nearly every aspect of our lives; has killed more than 240,000 in the United States; and has created economic havoc around the world. Kamala Harris will make history as the first woman, Black woman, and woman of Indian descent to hold the office of Vice President of the United States. For women across the country, especially those who are Black or Desi-American, this election marks the shattering of a glass ceiling and opening a door for leadership to future women and women of color—perhaps one of you who is studying now at the University of Minnesota Crookston.

We know the quickly approaching winter holiday season brings important celebrations for many. We know, too, the upcoming holidays may increase risk and exposure to COVID-19, not just for us as individuals, but also for the communities we may return to or visit. There is a balance to navigating the holidays while maintaining basic preventative measures to help keep you and those around you safe and healthy.

I've included some resources if you are going to be connecting with family and friends.

1. Know the facts about COVID-19 and the risk of infection anytime you gather with people you do not live with, even around those who are not showing any symptoms. Also, be aware of the rates of COVID-19 spread in the communities in which you are staying.
2. Make a plan with family and friends who you may see during the holidays to determine how you can safely celebrate. Come to an agreement on the steps all will take to prevent spreading COVID-19.
3. Lay low before you go. As many students will be traveling to their homes or other locations during the Thanksgiving break and transition to distance learning, you are encouraged to take extra safety and health precautions in the days leading up to your travel to protect yourself and others from COVID-19.

These steps are based on guidance from the Minnesota Department of Health and the University's public health and medical experts. There is much more information about how to host a safe celebration, tips on travel, as well as details about what will be open on campus during the Thanksgiving and winter holidays, on the [Stay Safe MN website](#).

One important tool available to all of you as you prepare for Thanksgiving is your [one free saliva test through Vault Health](#). This saliva test can be used whether you are symptomatic or not at any time between now and late December. You can find your personalized link to request this mail-order test on the top right of your MyU home page under the flag icon. Thank you again for your efforts to keep yourselves, your families, and our community safe.

send a note of gratitude and appreciation. What better way to let people know how much you appreciate them than to tell them. A small act of kindness on your part can help to lift a burden or brighten a day.

On Wednesday we celebrate Veterans Day. This year we are proud to have more than 40 veterans who are taking classes from us either in person or online. If you are a veteran or active military, thanks for your service.

Be healthy, safe, and well.

With warmest regards and gratitude,

Chancellor Mary

CAMPUS UPDATES

Focus Groups

On Monday, November 16, and Tuesday, November 17, 2020, the Canvas and Zoom support teams from the University of Minnesota campuses are seeking opinions from current undergraduate students for a focus group discussion about remote learning. Your thoughts about what you know or have experienced in this area would be very helpful to us. The sessions will take place on Zoom. We keep all participation strictly confidential within the team, and no one is personally identified in any results. Participants will receive a prepaid debit card valued at \$40.

If you're interested in participating, [click here to view details and share your availability](#).

Braver Angels Message

Dear Students, Staff, and Faculty:

The University is hosting gatherings to help us reach across our political differences and move forward collectively. We hope you will join students, staff, and faculty in [With Malice Toward None](#) gatherings developed by the nonprofit and nonpartisan [Braver Angels](#).

The goal of these forums is to engage in meaningful dialogue that facilitates teaching and learning in our University community. There will be two stages and opportunities for engagement. In the first stage, groups of people who feel similarly about the presidential

come together to better understand each other, find common ground, and in the words of Braver Angels, “build the capacity of we-the-people to depolarize our politics and forge a new citizenship.”

Please note these forums are not meant to obscure strong political differences or encourage people to support a particular candidate or party. Instead, they aim to advance dialogue, encourage respect for others, and build connections for civic work across differences.

We are fortunate to have one of the co-founders of Braver Angels on the faculty at the University of Minnesota. Bill Doherty, a professor in the College of Education and Human Development on the Twin Cities campus, will facilitate the gatherings.

For now, [we invite you to register](#) for the initial gathering with people who feel similarly about the presidential election—either a large group University-hosted gathering or a small, self-hosted gathering. We acknowledge some people may be uncertain how they feel about the election because they consider it still unresolved. In that case, please participate in the group with which you most align.

After participating in the first forum, you can decide whether to sign up for a second gathering with those who feel differently about the election. Initial sessions will be held at the following times:

Generally Pleased

- November 16, 7-8:30 p.m.
- November 19, 2-3:30 p.m.

Generally Displeased

- November 17, 3:30-5 p.m.
- November 19, 7-8:30 p.m.

If you are unable to make these forums, but would like to participate in future Braver Angels interactions, please review the [Braver Angels Minnesota](#) website.

Thank you for your willingness to contribute to this critical work.

With appreciation,

Mary Holz-Clause, Chancellor

John Hoffman, Vice Chancellor Academic/Student Affairs

at the invitation of:

HIGHLIGHTS

Veterans Day Student Feature

As Veterans Day is this week, we asked UMN Crookston student Brian Bekkala, a golf and turf management major from Livonia, Mich., a few questions about what Veterans Day means to him. Bekkala served as a combat photographer in the U.S. Marine Corps from 2012-2017.



What does Veterans Day mean to you as a Veterans of the U.S. Marine Corps?

As a Marine Corps Veteran, Veterans Day means a day to remember service members who served before, during and after my time.

What, as a veteran, do you reflect on during Veterans Day?

On Veterans Day, I think about the people I served with and family members who have served. I try and reach out to see what they are up to, whether that is through a call or a text message.

What are you most proud of regarding your time as a member of the U.S. Marine Corps?

I am most proud of helping the people of Saipan in the Northern Mariana Islands after a typhoon went through the region. I also enjoyed speaking and listening to a group of World War II Veterans. They took me in for a few days and told stories like I was one of them.





Student Stories

UMN Crookston senior Eleora DeMuth, an agricultural education and communication double major from Grand Rapids, Minn., takes us through what makes Minnesota Crookston so special to her and the opportunities she has been provided as a student.



EVENTS



UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA
CROOKSTON
Presents

International
Education
Week

November 9-13, 2020

Learn how to make a
Sand Mandala
every day from 10 - 2
International Lounge



Canadian Lunch Entree: Poutine

Brown Dining Room: 11-1



9

Monday

Spanish Language Corner 1-3

International Lounge (Snacks & beverage included)

Japanese Lunch Entree: Ginger Pork

Brown Dining Room: 11-1



10

Tuesday

Japanese Language Corner 1-3

International Lounge (Snacks & beverage included)

Rwanda Lunch Entree: Ugali

Brown Dining Room: 11-1



11

Wednesday

French Language Corner 1-3

International Lounge (Snacks & beverage included)

Irish Lunch Entree: Kate & Wills Wedding Pie

Brown Dining Room: 11-1



12

Thursday



Mandarin Language Corner 1-3

International Lounge (Snacks & beverage included)

Indian Lunch Entree: Chicken Biryani

Brown Dining Room: 11-1



13

Friday

Hindi Language Corner 1-3

International Lounge (Snacks & beverage included)

**Zoom will be made available for the language
corners upon request**

The University of Minnesota is an equal opportunity educator and employer

MULTICULTURAL EDUCATION



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

[CLICK FOR ALL EVENTS](#)



