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LEADERSHIP LETTER

From the Vice Chancellor

Thanksgiving has always been my favorite holiday. I love autumn, the harvest, the traditional foods I grew up eating for Thanksgiving dinner, and the concept of gratitude. Perhaps that is part of the reason I became so defensive when I first heard critiques of the

was, though the tradition of meeting for diplomacy with area tribes came from the indigenous tribes of what is now Massachusetts). And wasn't it a celebration of sharing food and giving thanks? (It was, though most of the food came from Native people as did the ritual of giving thanks for the harvest.) And didn't the Puritans live in peace with Native people? (They did at the moment of the celebration, though writings from the Puritans described indigenous people as wild men, they gave thanks when European diseases weakened tribes in the area, and they massacred more than 500 Wampanoags—adults and children—just 16 years after the first celebration.)



I still celebrate Thanksgiving, and it still may be my favorite holiday, but I am learning to broaden my traditions by taking time to be honest about the holiday and to celebrate it within the larger and more significant context of Native American History Month. For me, this includes moments of silence for countless atrocities, both deliberate and unintended, unleashed upon the indigenous people of the Americas by my ancestors, and acknowledging I live on the land of the Dakota, the Ojibwe, and other Native Nations.

It also involves creating time to learn from the rich culture and heritage of Native people. For example, we just finished celebrating Transgender Awareness Week. For most of us living in this region, we are just now learning to accept, value, and celebrate transgender people; to use pronouns based on how others identify rather than the boxes we place them in; and to move beyond binary definitions of gender. While there were variations across the diverse tribes of North America, most tribes celebrated “two spirit” individuals (a term encompassing transgender, intersex, and gay and lesbian identities), honored their unique gender identities, supported diverse sexual attractions, and looked to them to add to the overall work and community of the tribe. What we are just learning now, Native Americans have known for ages.

I encourage you to make time for honest gratitude this week, and I hope your gratitude involves considering the myriad ways in which you benefit from engaging in community with others whose cultures, identities, and lived experiences are different than your own.

Guidance for Being Safe While Traveling and Celebrating Thanksgiving

As much as is possible, we encourage you to forego travel for Thanksgiving and to limit the size of your celebrations in order to remain safe and prevent the spread of COVID-19.

Additional guidance from the CDC is available at: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/daily-life-coping/holidays/thanksgiving.html>

International Travel

may [apply for an exception](#) to the restriction. Domestic travel by staff or faculty using personal or fleet services vehicles continues to be allowed, but faculty and staff domestic air travel for University purposes is discouraged unless absolutely necessary.

While University-related international travel for undergraduates is currently not permitted, the University is monitoring conditions for travel to certain University-approved education abroad programs to determine whether this travel will be permitted prior to March 31, 2021.

We strongly encourage all who are considering travel, whether for work, study, or personal reasons, to explore the travel resources from the [U.S. Department of State](#), the [Centers for Disease Control and Prevention](#), and your selected airline.

Feedback on the UMN “MPact 2025” Strategic Plan Metrics

In mid-October, President Gabel shared an update on the implementation of MPact 2025, our University's first systemwide strategic plan. On November 20, we received a request to secure feedback from faculty, student affairs educators, staff, and students on proposed metrics for the plan. Please take a few moments to complete a survey that includes information about the metrics and asks for your feedback. [Click here to complete the survey](#). Note you will soon receive an email requesting your feedback, which will include a link to this same survey.

Best,

Vice Chancellor John Hoffman

CAMPUS UPDATES

From Institutional Effectiveness

The University is undergoing a systemwide strategic planning process, MPact 2025. Upon Board of Regents approval of the plan, UMN Crookston will develop our own strategic priorities in support of this systemwide plan.

We invite you to take some time reviewing the proposed plan and provide any feedback around the proposed metrics using the survey form below.

[MPact 2025 Systemwide Strategic Plan](#)

The University of Minnesota Crookston trap team finished second in the USA College Clay Target League 1A-Conference 2 final standings released Sunday, Nov. 22. The Golden Eagles have earned second-place finishes in each of their first two seasons in the USA College Clay Target League.

UMN Crookston had a final 2020 season score of 738.0 to place in second behind Southwest Wisconsin Technical College with 1,055.5 points. The Golden Eagles bested Mount Aloysius College (536.0 points) and Mitchell Technical Institute (310.5 points).

Hailey Olson (Fr., Albertville, Minn.) had the third-best season average of any female in 1A-Conference 2 with a tally of 20.7 on the season. Olson finished eighth in all of the USA College Clay Target League for females. Alyssa Kasprick (Jr., Thief River Falls, Minn.) was 10th among all females in the USA College Clay Target League with an average of 20.2.

Colton Schrempp (Jr., Victoria, Minn.) was seventh in 1A-Conference 2 for the 2020 season with a season average of 23.3.

Top 10 UMN Crookston Averages (Shooters that shot all five weeks of 2020 season)

1. Colton Schrempp, 23.3
2. Dan Rowe, 21.6
3. Jaeden McCleary, 21.3
4. Peyton Verbout, 21.2
5. Nick Grams, 20.9
6. Karl Kosak, 20.9
7. Hailey Olson, 20.7
8. Garrett Horak, 20.6
9. Jesse Mayry, 20.4
10. Alyssa Kasprick, 20.2

UMN Crookston Places 20 Student-Athletes on NSIC Fall All-Academic Team

The University of Minnesota Crookston had 20 student-athletes named to the Northern Sun Intercollegiate Conference (NSIC) All-Academic Team. In addition, 11 student-athletes were named to the NSIC All-Academic Team of Excellence.

The NSIC announced 775 student-athletes who earned All-Academic Team honors, while 444 student-athletes garnered NSIC All-Academic Team of Excellence accolades.

To be eligible for the NSIC All-Academic Team of Excellence, a student-athlete must have a 3.60 cumulative GPA or higher, while NSIC All-Academic Team members must have a 3.20 cumulative GPA or higher. Additionally, the student-athlete must be a member of the varsity traveling team, have reached sophomore athletic and academic standing at her/his

Men's Cross Country

- *Anthony Kampa, Sr., St. Cloud, Minn.
- Peter Hendrickx, Sr., Butler, Minn.
- Paul Hendrickx, Jr., Butler, Minn.
- Manpreet Singh, Jr., Punjab, India
- Women's Cross Country
- *Jennifer Lax, Sr., Sleepy Eye, Minn.
- * Roseline Kanssole, Sr., Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso
- Rena Sakai, So., Chiba, Japan

Soccer

- *Jessica Withrow, Sr., Gardnerville, Nev.
- * Ashley Chomyn, So., Winnipeg, Manitoba
- * Sarah Hall, Sr., Sammamish, Wash.
- * Samantha Donnay, So., Princeton, Minn.
- Katie Emmett, Sr., Bohermeen, Ireland
- Maggie Peterson, Sr., Princeton, Minn.
- Lindsey Daml, R-Sr., North Pole, Alaska

Volleyball

- *Lauren Wallace, R-Jr., Bloomington, Minn.
- * Katie Lienemann, Sr., Rosemount, Minn.
- * Deaira Gresham, Sr., Maplewood, Minn.
- * Sydney Kruisselbrink, Sr., Rochester, Minn.
- Shelby Dunbar, So., Fertile, Minn.
- Natalie Koke, R-So., Caledonia, Wis.

* - NSIC All-Academic Team of Excellence Member

HIGHLIGHTS

Student Success Center Feature

Minnesota Crookston Student Success Center Continues Inclusive Offerings during

due to the current environment we live in with the COVID-19 pandemic. But while their offerings have occurred in both in-person and virtual environments, the factor that hasn't changed is a commitment to inclusion to support all students at UMN Crookston.

Read the full story [here](#).



EVENTS

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