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**LEADERSHIP LETTER**

Dear Colleagues,

One of my former colleagues, Margaret, spent two years as a Peace Corps volunteer in Swahili early in her career. Later I worked with Margaret on a USAID project in rural Uganda helping to establish boreholes for water and planting gardens for greater food

in Uganda and frequently use the term and concept they used in Swahili “harambee,” which in English translates as “all pull together.”

I recently read an article from another university leader talking about their COVID experiences. He used the same word “harambee,” from his time in Swahili to describe his university’s response during COVID-19. It seems like the perfect word for what is happening here at the University of Minnesota Crookston. You all are going above and beyond and pulling together to help our students learn and grow through this unique time. I’ve been in many meetings where the question is “Can we do this?” and the response is, “We will figure it out.”



Thank you for the many changes you had to make, improvising along the way, sacrificing your extra time and energy to get things done.

#### COVID-19

While we don’t have all the details yet on the COVID-19 vaccination roll out; let me share what we know and don’t know.

- We don’t know if we will be receiving COVID vaccines through our University System or Polk County Public Health.
- Nan Widseth, one of our primary health professionals on-campus, and others are in coordination with both entities and planning for either option, depending on availability and the organization which can assist us most quickly.
- Neither the University or Polk County Health receive vaccines directly from either the manufacturers or the federal government. Instead, states have the responsibility to determine how to distribute the vaccine doses released by the federal government. In our state, the Minnesota Department of Health (MDH) sets distribution priorities and releases batches of vaccines. Potential vaccine recipients are based on MDH priorities. MDH must approve the University’s and Polk County’s request and then release doses of vaccine.

If you would like to learn more about what is happening locally, check out this link each week <https://coronavirus-response-pcg.hub.arcgis.com/> and watch the video which is found by scrolling down on the page until you see Sarah Reese, the director of Polk County Public Health on the video.

To make planning even more challenging, guidelines from the federal government and priority assignments keep changing. Continue to check [the vaccine page on our Safe](#)

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## Building our Collective Future

As we start to consider a post-pandemic world, now more than ever, we need to collectively consider our opportunities and build a vibrant, sustainable future for our campus. In order to prepare, I hope you will join the Future of Higher Education in Minnesota book club. All on our faculty and staff on our campus are invited to participate. In addition, we have members from our System and community stakeholders who are also interested in joining us. These additions should go a long way to stretching our imaginations and exploring what is truly possible for our campus. The first book we will explore is *The Fifth Wave* by Michael Crow. Here is a [link](#).

If you are interested in participating, please respond to [Chris Winjum](#) by Thursday, January 28. Chris will order the books and distribute them to you as quickly as possible. From there, we will meet for 1.5 hours every three weeks. We will make sure to vary times in the case you can't attend a session, you can always pick up later. More details to come as we determine how many are interested and best options for scheduling. Let Chris know if you are interested in being part of this exciting conversation.

### Hope

Saying we are currently experiencing an intense moment in American history is such an understatement. I've read volumes of U.S. history books and biographies, and I won't go so far as to say these are the most turbulent times ever but, I have never experienced as many things happening concurrently that are so challenging. In the area of racial unrest and violence, we haven't seen days like these since when Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. was with us. Learn more about his work and legacy January 21 from 12:30-1:30 p.m. in Bede Ballroom. Space is limited, however you can also join via Zoom, [z.umn.edu/6kuq](https://z.umn.edu/6kuq). Dr. King's words are as relevant today as they were in 1967.

In the spirit of MLK and homage to his work, I encourage you to check in with your students and others in your life to see how they are processing the current events, as we all have been navigating these strange times together.

Working with you and our students gives me hope for the future we want to collectively build.

Chancellor Mary



- <https://umn.zoom.us/j/92190299838>



## VIRTUAL HOCKEY ALUMNI SOCIAL



Join us on Mon., Jan. 25 for a virtual alumni social at 6 p.m. C.T. We are excited to bring back our hockey alumni and showcase what is going on with our ACHA hockey team including their updated locker room facility. We will also get ready for UMN Crookston's 2021 home debut against the University of North Dakota club team at 7 p.m.

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### Save the Date for a Virtual Alumni Social on January 19

Join us for a Virtual Alumni Social via Zoom (<https://umn.zoom.us/j/9395509614>) on Tuesday, January 19, 2021 from 5-6 p.m.

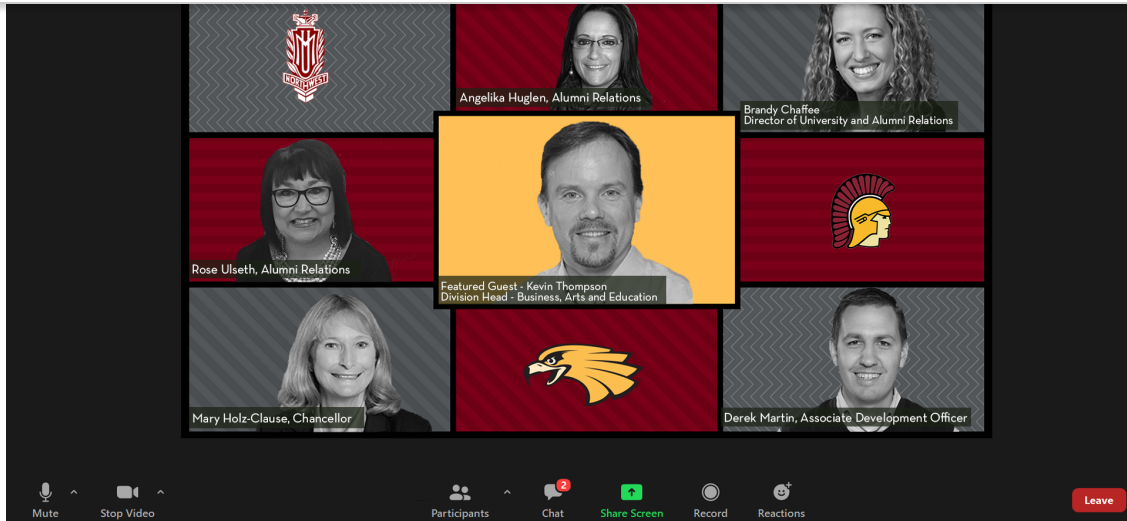
Featuring Kevin Thompson, Division Head Business & Humanities, Social Sciences, and Education and former communication faculty.

Mark your calendar and encourage fellow alumni to attend. Details will follow.

Questions? Contact Angelika Huglen at [ahuglen@umn.edu](mailto:ahuglen@umn.edu).

The event will be hosted by your friends in University and Alumni Relations.





## Virtual Pre-Game Social

- [umn.zoom.us/j/92132294792](https://umn.zoom.us/j/92132294792)

**VIRTUAL PRE-GAME SOCIAL**  
**JANUARY 23, 2021**

At this time, fans are not allowed to watch the games in-person, but we will support our student-athletes and cheer them on as best we can.

We will get ready to watch the basketball games Saturday and have community since we can't currently be in person. The men's basketball team plays at home against Minot State at 1:30 p.m. and the women's basketball team plays on the road against the Beavers at 2 p.m.

# CAMPUS UPDATES

## From the Student Success Center

### GRE Study Groups

Do you have a student who is planning to take the GRE? Encourage them to sign up for a GRE study group this semester! Led by Kelsey Torgerson and Denise Greene, these study sessions will teach students what to expect from the test, how to find and use GRE resources, and ways to keep yourself accountable. Techniques and strategies to conquer all three sections - quantitative reasoning, verbal reasoning, and analytical writing will be covered. We will meet for an hour every other week via Zoom, and we hope to begin at the beginning of February. If interested, students should fill out this [interest form](#) by Friday, January 29. For questions, students can contact Kelsey Torgerson or Denise Greene.

### Tutoring

Now is a great time to encourage your students and advisees to sign-up for a tutor. This [video](#) walks students through how to request a tutor. Faculty, if you'd like to include this video on your Canvas site, we can show you how to embed the YouTube video or send you the mp4 file. If you'd like to include the video in your Canvas site, please contact Josh Parrill or email [umctutor@crk.umn.edu](mailto:umctutor@crk.umn.edu) and indicate if you would prefer the YouTube link to embed or mp4 file as an attachment.

Tutoring will start this week and next and is available to both on campus and online students. The earlier a student requests a tutor, the more effective it can be. They can request a tutor using this [Request a Tutor link](#). Faculty, we ask you consider putting this link into your Canvas sites and announcing it in class. If it would be helpful, feel free to walk a student over to us in the Student Success Center. There is always one of us in the center this semester. If you have any questions, please contact Josh Parrill or email [umctutor@crk.umn.edu](mailto:umctutor@crk.umn.edu).

### Writing Center

The Writing Center continues to be available to all students (on campus and online) who want to discuss their writing projects. We provide constructive feedback to writers at all stages of the writing process. This [video](#) walks through how to use the Writing Center. Faculty, if you'd like to include this video on your Canvas site, we can show you how to

feedback using this [Writing Center link](#) to make an appointment or request email feedback. Our services are free. Note our new hours for this semester: Monday - Friday from 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. Central Time. If you have any questions, please email [umcwrite@crk.umn.edu](mailto:umcwrite@crk.umn.edu).

### **Multicultural Education**

Join us as we celebrate the vision of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. on January 21 from 12:30-1:30. We will be meeting in person in Bede Ballroom, but if you are unable to join in person feel free to participate via [Zoom](#). We will watch an excerpt from one of Dr. King's addresses and will have time to discuss his ideas and how they still relate to us today.

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### **From Athletics**

The UMN Crookston women's basketball team picked up their first season sweep of perennial power Northern State University in program history last weekend. The Golden Eagles defeated the Wolves 66-63 Friday and 69-64 Saturday in two games that came down to the final whistle.

Minnesota Crookston was guided by Emma Carpenter with 16 points and Mary Burke with 15 points Friday. Freshman Jes Mertens tallied a school-record seven steals in the win.

Saturday, UMN Crookston looked to Mertens with 19 points. Burke added 13 points in the game. Haylee Wheeler, playing in only her second game back from an ACL injury in high school, scored 10 points and secured five rebounds.

The Golden Eagles take on Minot State on the road Friday, January 22 at 6 p.m., and Saturday January 23 at 2 p.m.

In addition, Mertens currently leads all of NCAA Division II in steals per game with 4.83 and is second in the nation with 29 steals.

The Minnesota Crookston men's basketball team returns home after playing No. 2 Northern State tight on the road with much of both games Friday and Saturday. UMN Crookston will play their fifth and sixth games in their friendly confines of Gary Senke Court at Lysaker Gymnasium. The Golden Eagles will face Minot State at 5:30 p.m. Friday and 1:30 p.m. Saturday.

The Golden Eagle hockey team had the week off of games after going 1-1 in their opening weekend against University of Jamestown. Minnesota Crookston will take on the University of North Dakota club team in their first game at the Crookston Sports Center at 7 p.m. Monday, January 25.



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### **From Technology Support Services**

To create a more secure home network, start by securing your Wi-Fi access point (sometimes called a Wi-Fi router). This is the device that controls who and what can connect to your home network. The [January 2021 edition of the "OUCH!"](#) newsletter covers five simple steps to secure your Wi-Fi.

As we continue to work from home, managing security becomes a household activity. Increase your home network security by taking similar steps with new technology. See [Securing Internet of Things \(IoT\) Devices at Home](#) for best practices.

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### **Outstanding Achievement Award**

This award may be conferred only on graduates, or former students of the University, who have attained unusual distinction in their chosen fields or professions or in public service, and who have demonstrated outstanding achievement and leadership on a community, state, national, or international level. The candidate's education at the University should represent a significant portion of his or her total postsecondary education. Nominees cannot be a current member of faculty or staff, or a sitting Regent, but retirees are eligible. Outstanding Achievement Awards are not awarded to encourage or reward financial contributions to the University.

The next deadlines are February 17 and March 24.

Here is the link. <http://uawards.umn.edu/university-awards/outstanding-achievement-award>

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### **From University and Alumni Relations**

#### *Contact for Design Work*

At this time, and until further notice, please contact Brandy Chaffee for design work requests in an effort to assign projects to our student assistants/interns.

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## Welcome

- Peter Champion, Disability Resource Center Coordinator, UMN Crookston

## Farewell

- Maggie Mills, Social Media Specialist, UMN Crookston
- Cordelia Frentz, Facilities and Operations, UMN Crookston
- Gary Willhite, Directory of Security Services, Security Services, UMN Crookston
- Pamela Sullivan, Building and Grounds Worker, Residential Life, UMN Crookston
- Tim Menard, Director of Counseling Services, Counseling Services, UMN Crookston
- Lucille Payment, Cook, Dining Services, UMN Crookston
- Joan Reitmeier, Student Services Specialist, Business Affairs Office, UMN Crookston
- Jim Schaar, Lecturer, Liberal Arts and Education Department, UMN Crookston
- Greg Benoit, Maintenance Equipment Operator, Facilities and Operation, UMN Crookston
- Rhonda Pahlen, Building and Grounds Worker, Residential Life, UMN Crookston
- Gail Myers, Disability Resource Center Coordinator, Disability Resource Center, UMN Crookston
- Dennis Regan, Senior Building and Grounds Worker, Facilities and Operations, UMN Crookston
- Deborah Chandler, Admin Assistant, Student Affairs, UMN Crookston
- Peggy Chaput, Student Services Specialist, Business Affairs Office, UMN Crookston

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## HIGHLIGHTS

### Student Story: Peter Andrada

Every student at the University of Minnesota Crookston campus has a unique story of how they got here, and their stories are what weave the history of this campus in northwestern Minnesota. Peter Andrada, a Minnesota native, found his way to the University of Minnesota right out of high school in the early 90s, but the timing wasn't quite right for him then. Nonetheless, years later Andrada would find himself thriving in his IT career and

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



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### **Preserving the History of Hispanics in the Red River Valley**

University of Minnesota Crookston employee and 2011 alumnus Ken Mendez and 2002 alumna Victoria Ramirez will be two of three panelists on a discussion and premiere screening of “Ésta Es Mi Casa - This is My Home,” Prairie Public’s original documentary about the Hispanic migration to the Red River Valley.



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

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### **UMN Crookston Receives GEER Grants to Benefit Teacher Ed Candidates**

Sixteen UMN Crookston candidates are receiving support after the University of Minnesota was recently awarded a Governor’s Emergency Educational Relief (GEER) Grant. GEER funding is a federal grant initiative to address emergency needs during the COVID-19 pandemic. Co-PIs Provost Rachel Croson and CEHD Senior Associate Dean Deborah Dillon determined that the \$104,156 award would be used to meet the needs of future teachers from the Twin Cities, Duluth, Crookston, and Morris campuses. This focus was selected because COVID-19 impacted—and will continue to impact—the progress of many teacher candidates who were in the midst of, or starting critical coursework that required clinical experiences and/or student teaching in PK-12 classrooms. [Read the full article to learn more about the application and selection process.](#)

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The University of Minnesota (UMN) [Institute on the Environment](#) Educators program is a 15-month fellowship open to all UMN educators - including tenure-track faculty, instructional staff, adjunct faculty, librarians, advisors, and other staff who have a special interest in effective pedagogy and curriculum development. The Educators cohort-based program is:



- Multidisciplinary. Educators bring perspectives from many colleges and departments.
- System-wide. Educators are drawn from all five U of M campuses.
- Innovative. Educators discover new tools and pedagogy for teaching sustainability.

Each IonE Educator develops a focal project around sustainability education, participates and collaborates in a cohort of educators, and has the opportunity to design and implement a collective action (the Sustainability Education Summits, for example) with the cohort. IonE Educators receive 1:1 support from IonE Staff including a dedicated graduate student, as well as consultations and workshops from the UMN Libraries and UMN Center for Education Innovation. They receive the myriad benefits of being an IonE Affiliate.

To apply, email your application materials to [ioneaffiliates@umn.edu](mailto:ioneaffiliates@umn.edu) by March 31, 2021. Individuals can apply by submitting:

- 1) Letter of support from a department chair, dean, or associate dean (or similar supervisory role). If none of these is available, please reach out to [ioneaffiliates@umn.edu](mailto:ioneaffiliates@umn.edu) prior to the application deadline to find out what else could be submitted in place of this letter.
- 2) Cover letter describing environmental or sustainability education experiences; and a description of, and the goals, for an educational project or activity they seek to advance during the fellowship year.
- 3) CV highlighting the qualifications described above

Selection will be based on the potential for the proposed project to significantly advance sustainability education within and outside of the University of Minnesota system. IonE Educators are recommended by IonE's Faculty Leadership Council with council from the IonE Educators Advisory Board and IonE staff. Consultation with IonE education/leadership staff about possible projects is strongly encouraged before submitting an application.

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Sincerely,

IonE Educators Coordination Team

*Are you more interested in developing leadership and research skills as an early career faculty member? Apply to be an [IonE Associate!](#)*

*Are you an experienced researcher in environmental topics hoping to join an expansive community of interdisciplinary scholars? Apply to be an [IonE Fellow!](#)*

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