

[View this email in your browser](#)



## LEADERSHIP LETTER

Dear Students,

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 through this unique time.



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

### **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 every 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 Campus website](#). This page will be updated frequently with the latest information.

### **Hope**

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 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 gives me hope for the future we want to collectively build.

Chancellor Mary



[CLICK FOR ALL EVENTS](#)

---

[CAMPUS UPDATES](#)

### From the Student Success Center

#### Tutoring

Now is a great time to sign-up for a tutor! Tutoring will start this week and next. This [video](#) walks students through how to request a tutor and you can request a tutor using this [Request a Tutor link](#). The earlier you request a tutor, the more effective it can be. Online tutoring is available at no cost to all online students. If you have any questions, please contact Josh Parrill or email [umctutor@crk.umn.edu](mailto:umctutor@crk.umn.edu).

There is also Science/Math Drop-In tutoring with Kelsey Torgerson held M-F 3:30-4:30 p.m. (M&F via Zoom, TuWTh in-person or via Zoom). Students in Intro Chem, Intro Physics, or Chem Principles II can email Kelsey ([kwatkins@crk.umn.edu](mailto:kwatkins@crk.umn.edu)) ahead of time for the Zoom link.

and virtual in the afternoon. To join virtual hours or for questions, email [umcmathcenter@crk.umn.edu](mailto:umcmathcenter@crk.umn.edu).

### Writing Center

Feeling unsure about your next writing project? The [Writing Center](#) is available to all students (on campus and online) who want to discuss their writing. This [video](#) walks you through how to use the Writing Center. You can choose to schedule a live consultation (in person or via video conference) or use our asynchronous email feedback. We provide constructive feedback to writers at all stages of the writing process. Our services are free and the Writing Center is located in Owen Hall 170.

For a live consultation, you may schedule a one-on-one conversation with a writing consultant to discuss comments on your draft using this [Make Appointment link](#). This can be done in person or via phone, Zoom, or Google Meet. If you'd prefer to receive email feedback, fill out an [Online Consultation Request](#). You'll answer questions about your writing project, upload a draft, and include your assignment instructions. A writing consultant will be in touch with you within one business day and will provide personalized feedback to you on your writing project. Note our new hours for this semester: Monday - Friday from 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. If you have any questions, please email [umcwrite@crk.umn.edu](mailto:umcwrite@crk.umn.edu).

### Extending the Classroom

Extending the Classroom evening study sessions will start in Week 3.

The Student Success Center is again hosting weekly Extending the Classroom evening study groups for a few of our most highly requested classes. Study groups begin the week of January 24 and are led by experienced tutors who are familiar with the classes. If you would like a Google Calendar reminder for these groups, please add your name to the [Interested in Extending the Classroom List](#) and select the appropriate group you'd like to join. Any student in these classes is welcome to attend, but you are expected to bring questions and have already attempted the work on your own. For questions, contact [umctutor@crk.umn.edu](mailto:umctutor@crk.umn.edu).

- Intro Chemistry (Chem 1001) - Sundays 8-9 p.m. in Evergreen Classroom
- Sociology (Soc 1001) - Mondays 6:30-7:30 p.m. in Evergreen Classroom
- General Biology (Biol 1009) - Tuesdays 6-7 p.m. in Dowell Hall 106
- Intro to Animal Science (AnSc 1004) - Wednesdays 5-6 p.m. in Evergreen Classroom
- College Algebra (Math 1031) - Wednesdays 7:30-8:30 p.m. in Evergreen Classroom

start after 7 p.m. Students joining the General Biology Extending the Classroom should use the outside door to the library and move into Dowell Hall.

### **GRE Study Groups**

Planning to take the GRE? Don't know what to expect? Not sure how to study? Sign up for a GRE study group this semester! Led by Kelsey Torgerson and Denise Greene, these study sessions will teach you 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, please fill out this [interest form](#) by Friday, January 29. If you have any questions, please contact Kelsey Torgerson or Denise Greene.

### **Multicultural Education**

Join us as we celebrate the vision of Dr. Martin Luther King on January 21 from 12:30-1:30 p.m. 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.

---

### **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.

Crookston will play their fifth and sixth games in their friendly confines of Gary Senske 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.

You can watch all Minnesota Crookston games on the brand new NSIC Network either online at <https://nsicnetwork.com/goldeneaglesports/> or on the new app.

## 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 back at the University of Minnesota Crookston to finish his degree.

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



### 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



---

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

---

---

