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LEADERSHIP LETTER

From the Chancellor,

Dear Colleagues;

reminded us that our democracy remains strong.

Despite the optimism for the future, we recognize the past 10 months have been tough and we know COVID-19 has created many financial challenges. Faculty and staff systemwide can now [apply for a one-time grant](#) from the Employee Emergency Assistance Fund. All applications are handled confidentially.



COVID-19 Update

We also help each other by remaining diligent with the most effective ways to control the spread of COVID-19 — wear a face covering, wash your hands, physically distance from others, and avoid large gatherings. Continuing these actions will help us bridge the time until we have reached widespread vaccination of our community.

As highlighted last week, the vaccine rollout is proceeding although much more slowly than we would have hoped. As you know, the Minnesota Department of Health controls the distribution of the vaccine. We have also asked the University of Minnesota be allowed to vaccinate our own community. We have a vaccine team planning for the moment the vaccine is more widely available and determining how we can put the University's expertise and resources to work to rapidly distribute the vaccine to all members of the University community. [Learn more about our work at the Safe Campus website.](#)

In the meantime, remember testing opportunities are broadly available and accessible. [Order your free test online](#) or in person testing is available at the Crookston Armory from 12-6 p.m. January, 27-30. To schedule an appointment, contact mncovidtestingappt.as.me

Behind the Numbers

Final total enrollment numbers for the spring are looking to be between 1,630-1,640. We had 126 students graduate in the fall. The numbers for spring semester are stronger than we originally projected in December. This is because, in addition to the one-on-one conversations many of you had with students, there were several teams on campus who worked extremely hard to connect with students too.

If you have any contact with the Student Success Center, International Programs, Residential Life, Enrollment Management, or the Business Office—let them know you appreciate what they do every day— especially this past month. Here is what they have been up to:

The Student Success Center (SSC) staff initiated an email and calling campaign towards the end of fall semester for all students who were not registered for spring 2021 and had

- With the assistance of the Office of Institutional Effectiveness, they received a list on November 30 with a total of 592 students who had yet to register for spring 2021.
- For this group of students, a mass email was sent containing information regarding registration and who to contact for assistance.
- On December 15 they received a second list, this time with the total number of students of 306 who were yet to register for spring 2021. For this group of students, our SSC advisors contacted them directly via email and assisted with registration.
- For students with advisors in other departments, the non advisor staff emailed them directly and assisted with questions and referrals to their program advisor.
- The last list was received December 30, and contained a total of 239 students who had yet to register for classes. This group of students received phone calls from the staff.
- All of these efforts have been documented in APLUS in an effort to avoid emailing and calling students twice who had already shared information with us previously.

International Students and Services monitored the registration status of all on-campus international students and added pertinent notes on APLUS.

- The students who have plans to transfer in spring 2021 was documented in APLUS to keep Student Success Center staff informed.
- Reached out to students who had not registered despite reminders from SSC staff.
- Communicated with faculty and professional advisors who were unsure if our on-campus international students were eligible to take more than three online credits.
- Worked with students who needed internship credits for spring 2021 with Financial Aid, Registrar, and faculty to get them registered.

The Office of Financial Aid & Scholarships and the Business Office work together (this semester and every semester) to assist students who have outstanding balances for the current enrolled term, which prevents registration for the next term. The offices take a holistic review of each student to see what options are available to them. Options this year usually include:

- Additional financial aid, extended payment plans, as well as flexibility with registration.
- Additionally, many students still owe due to incomplete loan requirements, unaccepted financial aid, missing financial aid documents, or no FAFSA application. For these students, the Financial Aid office made multiple phone calls and sent emails outlining the information and options specific to the student.

- At the time this outreach began, there were over 300 students who owed a balance for fall semester. Prior to the start of spring semester, this number was cut in half and less than 150 students still had a balance due.
- These offices understand how overwhelming the cost of obtaining a student's degree can be and strive to ease this process in every way we can.

Admissions was very busy behind the scenes too. Refer to the Enrollment Management update below which details all that happens in their office for spring recruitment.

Executive Order 13950 Revoked by President Biden

While the pandemic has been an area of focus, we have also remained committed to equity and inclusion. We are pleased to report the revocation of Executive Order 13950, which had aimed to place significant restrictions on training for diversity and anti-racism. This act had a negative impact on institutions like ours. The order was [revoked](#) last week, meaning none of its requirements will move forward.

Reserve February 15 for Professional Development Day

Mark the day and plan to attend your sessions of the Professional Development Day. Details will be provided in the next E-Update. Most sessions will be from 10-11:30 a.m. but some groups have extended development opportunities that run into the afternoon. There will be three tracks:

- Faculty and instructors focusing on online excellence
- People working directly with students (other than faculty/instructors) on strengthening a culture of belonging
- People who work indirectly in support of students on creating a culture of belonging.

Dr. King famously said, "intelligence plus character—that is the goal of true education." Thank you for all you have done, are doing, and will do in the weeks and months ahead to ensure we advance true education. I wish you a great spring semester.

Best,

Chancellor Mary

EVENTS

SAVE *the* DATE

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

A FOCUS ON BELONGING



02 . 15 . 21
10:00 - 11:30 AM :: VIRTUAL

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[CAMPUS UPDATES](#)

From the Information Desk

Spring semester will see some changes at the Information Desk in the Student Center. During the morning hours while we are double-staffed, students are welcome to use the game equipment. Solid cleaning protocols are in place and everyone must maintain the wearing of face coverings and physical distancing. The hours for the Info Desk have changed and is open 9 a.m. to 7 p.m. Monday-Friday and closed weekends.

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 hope to begin at the beginning of February. If interested, students should complete this [interest form](#) by Friday, January 29. If they have any questions, students should contact Kelsey Torgerson (kwatkins@crk.umn.edu) or Denise Greene (dgreene@crk.umn.edu).

Tutoring

Tutoring groups are starting to form so now is a great time to encourage your students and advisees to [sign-up for a tutor](#). The earlier students request a tutor, the more effective it can be. Faculty, we ask that 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'd like to include the [tutor request instruction video](#) on your Canvas site, we can show you how to embed the YouTube video or send you the mp4 file. To include the video in your Canvas site, please contact Josh Parrill or email umctutor@crk.umn.edu and indicate if you would prefer the YouTube link to embed or mp4 file as an attachment.

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) ahead of time for the Zoom link.

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 [Writing Center instruction video](#) walks through student steps to schedule a live consultation (in person or via video conference) or use our asynchronous email feedback.

Faculty, if you'd like to include the instruction video on your Canvas site, we can show you how to embed the YouTube video or send you the mp4 file. Note our new hours for this semester: Monday-Friday from 10 a.m.-4 p.m. CT. If you have any questions, email umcwrite@crk.umn.edu.

From Enrollment Management

How does Admissions Work in the Spring Cycle?

To close out the spring recruitment cycle, Admissions worked closely with Financial Aid, the Professional Advising team, and the Director of Educational Programs and Transitions to ensure a seamless transition for students from becoming admitted to being enrolled.

Online and on-campus students have different enrollment processes. Below are the details-- keep in mind this does not include non-degree students/certificates or PSEO

Online Students:

- Shortly after admission, the student is contacted by the professional advisor via email to begin the conversation about registering for classes, at which point the advisor and the student put together an agreed upon schedule and register through the Registrar's Office.
- Beginning in November when class registration opens, any student who was not enrolled within two weeks of their admission date is contacted by Admissions every two weeks via phone/text/email to ensure the student understands their next steps - financial aid options, student services available to them, and the registration process with their advisor.
- This campaign ends the day classes begin.
- Two weeks later, we contact all students that either didn't complete the application process or were admitted but didn't register and encourage them to defer to a future term.
- In addition and new this year, Admissions began a live series of "Getting Started" sessions featuring Financial Aid, Student Services, and registration processes.

On-campus students:

- Upon admission, the student is notified when registration will be open and how to complete the enrollment confirmation process, which includes paying a \$200 deposit.
- In the meantime, Admissions walks each student through their options for financial aid, housing/dining, and reminds them of the student service options available to them.
- Once the student completes the confirmation process, they begin working with Brooke Novak, Director of Educational Programs and Transitions, to begin the registration process with an advisor.
- Two weeks after classes begin, all students that either didn't complete the application process or were admitted but didn't register are encouraged to defer to a

To view a comparison chart, click [here](#).

From Athletics

The UMN Crookston hockey team started off their 2021 home slate with a 7-2 victory over the University of North Dakota club team Monday, January 25. The Golden Eagles scored five goals in the first period. Cam Olstad led the way with two goals and an assist, while Casey Kallock added one goal and two assists.



The Golden Eagle hockey team will remain at home at the Crookston Sports Center to take on Williston State College Friday, January 29 at 7 p.m. and Saturday, January 30 at 1 p.m.

The UMN Crookston baseball team was picked to finish seventh in the NSIC Preseason Coaches' Poll. The preseason selection was the highest in the history of the program. The Golden Eagles were picked eighth in the 2020 preseason poll. The preseason ranking shows the rise of a program picked 15th in the preseason poll in Steve Gust's first season as head coach in 2015.

The Golden Eagle men's basketball team has continued their 2020-21 season. Minnesota Crookston comes into this weekend with a 1-7 mark. The Golden Eagles will hit the road to take on University of Mary Friday, January 29 at 6 p.m. and Saturday, January 30 at 4 p.m.

The Minnesota Crookston women's basketball team comes in with a 2-6 mark during the 2020-21 season. The Golden Eagles will return home for just their third and fourth games respectively at Gary Senske Court at Lysaker Gymnasium. UMN Crookston will take on UMary Friday, January 29 at 5:30 p.m. and Saturday, January 30 at 1:30 p.m.

You can watch the Golden Eagle basketball and hockey games this weekend at <https://nsicnetwork.com/goldeneaglesports/>

— FACULTY & STAFF UPDATES —

Congratulations

- Johnson, R. & Walker II, E. G. (In Press). Willingness to pay for recreational land use in Minnesota. International Journal of Food and Agricultural Economics

HIGHLIGHTS

Prairie Public

University of Minnesota Crookston staff member and alumnus Ken Mendez 2011, along with alumni Victoria Ramirez 2002 and Allan Dragseth 1957, also a member of the Campus Advisory and Advancement Board, were featured in Prairie Public's upcoming documentary "Ésta Es Mi Casa – This Is My Home". The documentary chronicles the migration stories of Hispanic families who came to the Red River Valley to help with hoeing beet fields, tending crops, and bringing in the harvest.

These families' migration stories are as compelling as those of the families that migrated centuries earlier. They took extensive risks and experienced culture clashes, climate shock, and language barriers.

Now, one and two generations later, these migrant workers have assimilated and settled in the region. Their children and grandchildren are working as professionals. They have contributed their own cultural stamp to the region's art, cuisine, diversity, and economy.

Prairie Public has produced a half-hour documentary to examine the amazing journey of the Red River Valley's Hispanic community.

How to Watch

- Tune in to Prairie Public on Thursday, January 28, at 9 p.m.
- Stream on [PBS.org](https://www.pbs.org), the [PBS Video App](#), or [YouTube](#) after the broadcast.

Community Update

Football/Track Complex Discussion:

A recent development has come to the surface regarding our UMN Crookston football field/track complex (Ed Widseth Field). Because our campus does not offer track and field at this time and no longer has a varsity football program, we are investigating a 20 year

but not to the extent we are discussing now. Though more details will be flushed out through upcoming conversations, in short, a long(er) lease would allow the school district more "ownership" and responsibility for maintenance than ever before. Our UMN Crookston teams would still have the ability to use the facility for training and for the needs related to concessions and restrooms (specifically for baseball, softball, and soccer). One specific caveat of the new lease agreement would ensure the school district update the facility (the track primarily) - potentially a cost effective solution for the District rather than build their own complex, which is a conversation being had by school board members now. More information will be shared as it becomes available.

Alumni Feature

Jason Carlson began his undergraduate journey at the University of North Dakota with no solid plan other than to play football. When injury interrupted that plan, he really didn't know what to do. He took a break, worked, and after a couple of years decided he needed to continue his education. "I started by contacting UMC. The rest, as they say, is history. I was immediately made to feel welcome and heard as a UMN student," he said. Carlson said he was transformed from a barely engaged student without much of a plan to a driven student with purpose who graduated with distinction. "I credit my instructors and advisors at UMC with much of that transformation." he stated.

Steve Shirley was his advisor and did an amazing job helping him find his way. There were other instructors who made a positive impact on his time at UMN Crookston such as Rob Smith and Bruce and Sue Brorson. "I would say my affinity for UMC has grown over time as I think back to the positive impact it has made on my life," he said.

A lifelong resident of Polk County, he and his wife, Nicki, son Charley, and daughter Svea live near McIntosh, Minn. Carlson graduated with a bachelor's degree in business management in 2000 and went on to earn a master of business administration (MBA) from the University of North Dakota.

Currently, Carlson is the chief executive officer for Tri-Valley Opportunity Council where he has been employed for the past 14 years. Prior to that, he spent six years in various roles with the Win-E-Mac School District. "I participated in an internship with the school district and it was a very valuable part of my education. Shortly after I completed my internship, the district created an administrative position that was focused on the non-academic functions of the school and I was hired to fill that position," he said.

offer.

