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— LEADERSHIP LETTER —

**From the Chancellor**

Each February our nation celebrates [Black History Month](#). This year we recognize and grieve for the very visible reminders of racism and bias that continue to haunt our nation

systemic inequities and injustices, we also celebrate, admire, and champion the very real work of those among us who are making a difference.

Governor Walz included \$46.5 million in new funding for the University of Minnesota in FY 22-23, which fully funds our request. Now as we all know in politics it isn't over until it is over, but to receive this in the Governor's request is a good start.



### **Professional Development Day**

We are excited to share our plans for Professional Development Day. Similar to last spring, there will be three tracks:

- Faculty and instructors focusing on excellence in online and remote instruction
- 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.

All three groups will have morning sessions from 10:00-11:30 a.m. (mark your calendars now!) while afternoon sessions will depend on your group and department. Invitations including details for your area will be coming to you soon.

### **Virtual Hockey Social**

It was fun to be part of the virtual hockey social last week. The virtual social was held right before the stunning victory over the University of North Dakota club hockey team. Our alumni relations group coordinated the social and it provided former hockey team members a time to reconnect and reminisce. They shared many stories about camaraderie and working together. I won't share all the details but did laugh pretty hard when they were describing not having appropriate paperwork when some of our Canadian players came across the border. They got to know some of the border patrol better than they wanted to - but made it back to practice in time the next morning. Other escapades of the former players were shared and made me reflect on how the myths, legends, and stories of student life are happening right now for our students. I hope I am around in 15 years to hear what our current students remember about their COVID times and other memories.

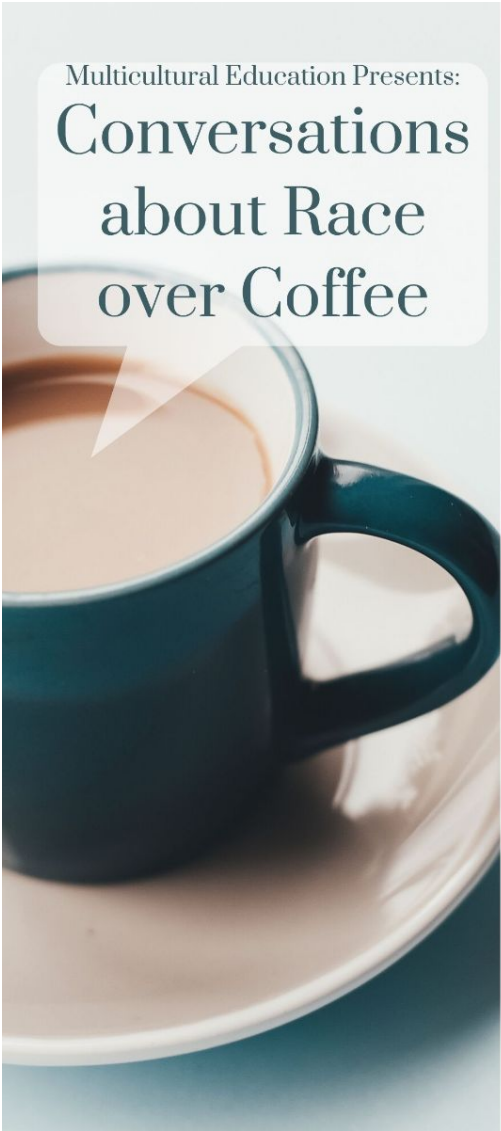
Remember, we aren't just educating students; we are a central part of their growing up, character development, and helping them become responsible citizens. And yes, even making it to athletic practice on time even though you didn't get to bed the night before.

longer and so far (I don't want to jinx it) winter has been relatively mild.

Best,

Chancellor Mary

## EVENTS



To celebrate Black History Month, join us on Zoom as we continue our conversations about race in America. Each week, we'll talk about race, allyship, and ways we can all work toward understanding each other.

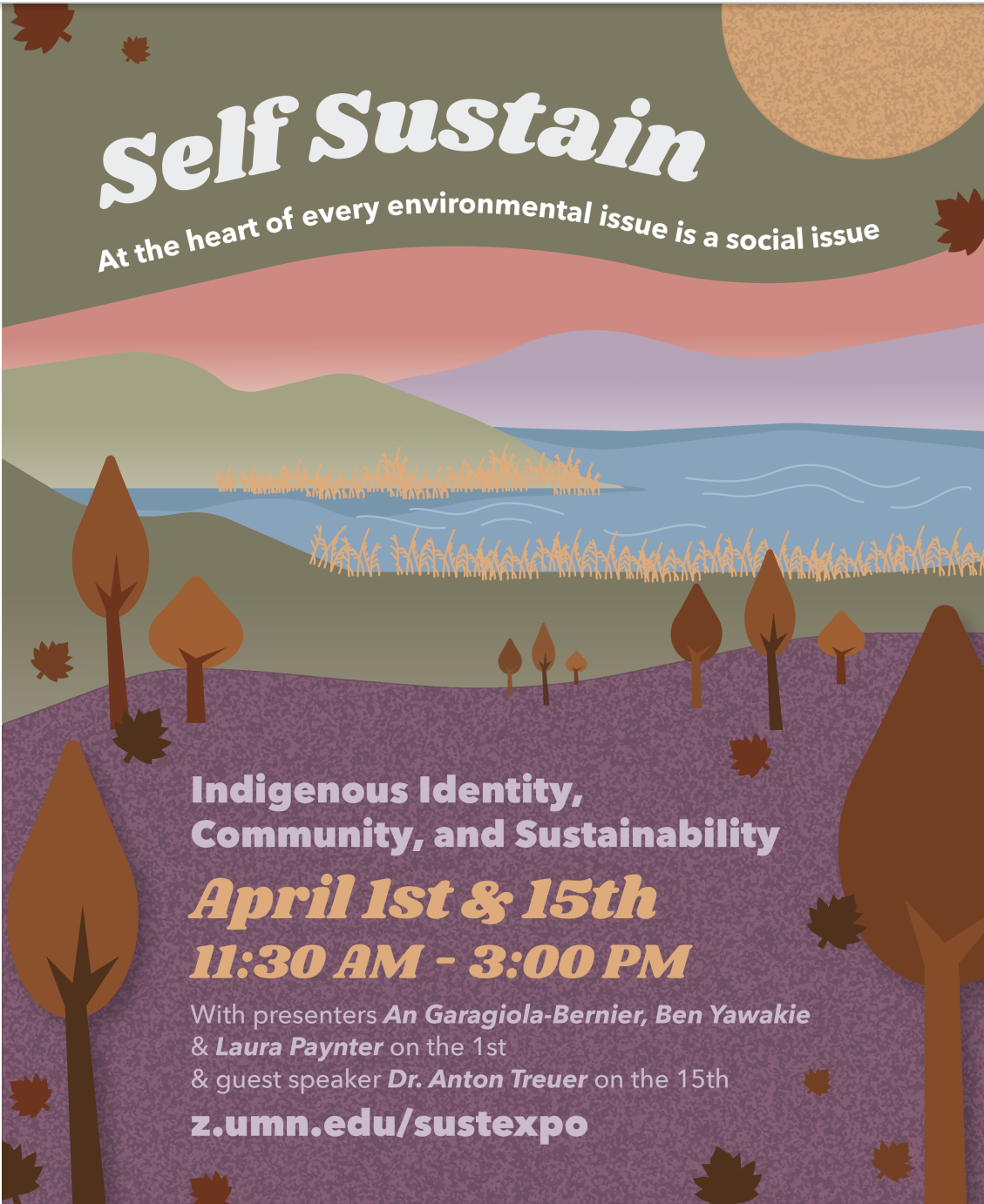
**February 3: Freedom for All-** To understand the present, we need to understand the past.  
12pm- 1 pm

**February 9: Sparks of Change-** This country has come a long way, but we still have a long way to go. 12pm-1pm

**February 17: Dismantling Racism-** Where do we go from here, and how can we work together as allies for a better future.  
12pm-1pm

**Zoom ID:** 910 2803 9693

**Zoom Link:**  
<https://umn.zoom.us/j/91028039693?pwd=ck9iLOVLUzJaUVZ6QnhvR1hHY3dPQT09>



# Self Sustain

At the heart of every environmental issue is a social issue

**Indigenous Identity,  
Community, and Sustainability**

**April 1st & 15th**  
**11:30 AM - 3:00 PM**

With presenters *An Garagiola-Bernier, Ben Yawakie*  
& *Laura Paynter* on the 1st  
& guest speaker *Dr. Anton Treuer* on the 15th

**[z.umn.edu/sustexpo](http://z.umn.edu/sustexpo)**

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**CLICK FOR ALL EVENTS**

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**NEWSLETTER EDITOR**

Hello everyone!

This will be the last newsletter I edit as I am moving to the Twin Cities to take on a new position. I will miss UMN Crookston dearly as I graduated from here, met my husband here, got my first job here, and spent the last six years of my life here.

I have thoroughly enjoyed bringing everyone at UMN Crookston news and updates every week and will miss doing so!

If you have any items for the newsletters please send them to Shawn Smith "[smithsd@crk.umn.edu](mailto:smithsd@crk.umn.edu)" and Brandy Chaffee "[brandy@crk.umn.edu](mailto:brandy@crk.umn.edu)."

Thank you for everything,

Cassandra



## CAMPUS UPDATES

### From the Help Desk

The Computer Help Desk is open for in-person assistance (walk-ins), Monday-Friday 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. The phone is answered by our staff from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday-Friday. After hours inquiries are answered by staff in the Twin Cities.

### Ag-Arama (Play Something Country)

The 46th annual Ag-Arama will take place Saturday, February 6, 2021. This year's theme is Play Something Country and will be held in the University Teaching & Outreach Center (UTOC) on the campus of the University of Minnesota Crookston.



As we continue to follow COVID-19 guidelines, contests will be closed to in-person spectators and only those students who are showing will be allowed in the arena. The schedule of events is listed below and are available to watch via [livestream](#).

- 8:30 a.m. Beef 1 and Swine 1
- 9:00 a.m. Dairy and Sheep
- 9:30 a.m. Western 1 and Goat
- 10:00 a.m. Beef 2 and Swine 2
- 10:30 a.m. Horse 2

### **Experienced Showmanship**

- 11:30 a.m. Dairy and Sheep
- 12:00 p.m. Beef and Western
- 12:30 p.m. Swine
- 1:00 p.m. Round Robin
- 1:30 p.m. Intermission
- 2:00 p.m. Anthem, Coronation, and Awards

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### **Where It Starts**

Reflections on the Morrill takeover

Gbemi Oyetunde builds on the legacy of U of M student leaders from '69. Gbemi Oyetunde '22, College of Liberal Arts, currently serves as president of the Black Student Union at the University of Minnesota. The following are her reflections on the 1969 Morrill Hall takeover, which led to the creation of the University's Afro-American Studies Department (now African American & African Studies).

<https://twin-cities.umn.edu/news-events/reflections-morrill-takeover>

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### **From the Student Success Center**

Did you know UMN Crookston's tutoring program is now certified through not just one, but two different national organizations?

ACTLA Online Tutoring Program Certification

In April 2018, Josh Parrill and Kelsey Torgerson were invited to attend the Association of Colleges for Tutoring and Learning Assistance (ACTLA) national conference to participate in a day-long workshop with other tutoring and learning assistance professionals. The goal

year, helping to revise and edit the standards. In April 2019, ACTLA published their [Principles, Standards, and Effective Practices for Quality Online Tutoring](#) which now serve as a framework for online tutoring support services.

Shortly after the standards were published, Josh and Kelsey were invited to participate in the pilot program for ACTLA's Online Tutoring Program Certification. The tutoring program at UMN Crookston has been a leader in online tutoring and ACTLA wanted our campus's input as this new certification was being developed. Josh and Kelsey worked together to compile documentation, submit the application, and provide feedback for this new certification. We are pleased to announce that just a few weeks ago UMN Crookston has officially earned ACTLA's Online Tutoring Program Certification. Our campus will be recognized at the upcoming national conference in April and UMN Crookston's tutoring program is now serving as a resource for other universities as they work to expand and improve their online tutoring offerings. Josh and Kelsey have both been accepted to present their work at various national conferences and have been invited to host multiple webinars over the past few years to share best practices of online tutoring. This national recognition has not only allowed us to share with other universities our best practices, but it has helped us to grow and improve our own tutoring program in order to better serve our students here at the UMN Crookston.

#### CRLA International Tutor Training Program Certification

In addition to the new ACTLA Online Tutoring Program Certification above, you may not have known UMN Crookston has also been nationally recognized through the College Reading and Learning Association (CRLA). For the last four years, UMN Crookston's tutoring program has held [CRLA's International Tutor Training Program Certification](#). This

certification provides national recognition and positive reinforcement for our peer tutors and our tutoring program. The CRLA International Tutor Training Program Certification also sets an internationally accepted standard of skills and training for tutors. In 2015, Josh Parrill and Stacie Varnson compiled documentation and submitted the extensive application for this certification and in late 2016, the tutoring program at UMN Crookston officially earned the International Tutor Training Program Certification through CRLA. The certification runs on a 1-year, 3-year, and then 5-year renewal basis. In 2017, Josh submitted for renewal and was approved. At the end of this past year, Josh, with the help of Kelsey Torgerson, submitted another renewal application. Due to the extensive nature of the application and the thorough review process, we do not expect to hear back for several months but are confident we will continue to uphold our certification.



minimum of 10 training hours and uses a minimum number of recommended training topics; 3) tutoring experience directly with students for a minimum of 25 hours; and 4) regular evaluation by a knowledgeable and experienced evaluator. To complete the required training, the peer tutors hired through the Student Success Center are expected to complete a tutor training course, which is a one-credit eight-week course taught by Parrill and Torgerson. Since first earning the International Tutor Training Program Certification, UMN Crookston has had over 90 peer tutors complete the training requirements. The curriculum and training topics align with the CRLA standards, outcomes, and assessments set forth in the International Tutor Training Program Certification. Some of the training topics we train our tutors on include professional ethics, role-modeling, active listening, Socratic questioning, communication, referral skills, session management and leadership, cultural competence and sensitivity, tutoring diverse learners, goal setting, and critical thinking skills. The mission of our tutoring program is to assist students to become successful, independent learners and the training the peer tutors receive continually works to uphold that mission.



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### **From Athletics**

The University of Minnesota Crookston had nine student-athletes earn the NSIC Myles Brand All-Academic with Distinction Award. The honor, named for the late NCAA President Dr. Myles Brand, is bestowed to senior NSIC student-athletes who have a cumulative grade point average of 3.75 or higher, are exhausting their eligibility and are on track to graduate (student-athletes can only earn the award once). Each student-athlete will be recognized by the NSIC with a certificate of achievement and a wristwatch. A record number 227 student-athletes from the NSIC's 16 institutions will receive the award in its 12th year, 33 more than last year's record of 194.

The Golden Eagles honored with the distinguished award were; Kamryn Frisk (Softball, Anchorage, Alaska), Deaira Gresham (Volleyball, Maplewood, Minn.), Anthony Kampa (Cross Country, St. Cloud, Minn.), Roseline Kanssole (Cross Country, Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso), Sydney Kruisselbrink (Volleyball, Rochester, Minn.), Jennifer Lax (Women's



(Soccer, Gardnerville, Nev.).

The UMN Crookston women's basketball team earned a split last weekend with a 73-65 win Saturday over UMary and a 59-55 loss on Friday. The Golden Eagles were led on Saturday by Jes Mertens with 17 points and seven rebounds. Mary Burke added 17 points, as well. The Golden Eagles take on No. 8 University of Minnesota Duluth at home on Friday, February 5 at 5:30 p.m., and Saturday, February 6 at 1:30 p.m.

The Golden Eagle men's basketball team also earned a split on the weekend. Minnesota Crookston picked up a 72-58 win over the Marauders in Bismarck, N.D. on Friday. They fell 73-60 to UMary on Saturday. The Golden Eagles were led on Friday by career highs by Josh Dilling (27 points) and Leonard Dixon (23 points). UMN Crookston heads to Minnesota Duluth to take on the Bulldogs Friday, February 5 at 6 p.m., and Saturday, February 6 at 4 p.m.

The Minnesota Crookston hockey team fell in a pair of games at home against Williston State College 3-1 and 7-3. The Golden Eagles will host UMary Saturday, February 6 at 3 p.m., and Sunday, February 7 at 1 p.m. at the Crookston Sports Center.

### **Updated Athletic Events Attendance Policy**

We are excited to welcome fans back to our home athletic events! We are grateful for the opportunity to see fans cheering on our student-athletes in person once again! It is no surprise however, that due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic the way we conduct our events looks different. We promise that our fan policy ensures the health and safety of our students athletes, coaches, event staff, NSIC officials, and fans. The University of Minnesota Crookston fan policy must be adhered to at all times. Fans must follow the procedures outlined below. Fans who fail to comply will be asked to leave the arena. Thank you and we appreciate your help in creating a healthy and safe playing environment.

Fan Policy:

- If you are showing any symptoms related to COVID or have been in contact with someone who tested positive for COVID please do not attend the athletic event.
- Two tickets per player: A pass list is stationed at the ticket gate at the south entrance of Lysaker and the south entrance of the Crookston Sports Center. When fans enter please provide your name and what player you are listed under. Your name must be on this list to receive admission. There will be no admission charge.
- Fans must wear face coverings that cover the nose and mouth at all times. If a fan has no mask or fails to properly wear the mask they will be asked to leave the arena.

concourse of the Crookston Sports Center.

- We will open the doors for fans 30 minutes prior to all home events. Please do not plan to arrive until 30 minutes prior to the games.
- Fans will be seated in the south bleachers of Lysaker Gymnasium and six ft. of distance between guests will be enforced. Fans will be seated in the open areas of the bleachers at the Crookston Sports Center and six ft. of distance will be enforced.
- Fans must exit the arena immediately following the conclusion of the game.
- Fans cannot come within 12 ft. of the playing surface.
- Hand sanitizing stations are available throughout the arena.
- No game day, programs, roster sheets, or fan promotions.
- No walk-up admissions allowed.
- Due to a multi-team event no fans will be allowed at home equestrian events at this time.
- The same fan policies will be adhered at Choice Health and Fitness for home tennis matches.

Thank you for your understanding and cooperation,

University of Minnesota Crookston Athletics

[Stephanie Helgeson](#), Director of Athletics

[Kamille Meyer](#), Asst. Athletic Director, Senior Woman Administrator, Wellness Center Director, and Title IX Coordinator

[Bridget Steffes](#), Asst. Athletic Director, Compliance Coordinator

[Steven Krouse](#), Head Athletic Trainer, Healthcare Administrator

[Ashley Brekken](#), Athletics Administrative Assistant

[Shawn Smith](#), Director of Athletic Communications

[Kolby Castillo](#), Event Management and Intramural Coordinator

[Hunter Plante](#), Asst. Director of Marketing and Communications

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## Department Highlight

*From Financial Aid*

the Office of Financial Aid & Scholarships offered an incentive to all new high school students set to start Fall 2021. For the month of December, students who submitted their FAFSA and completed the Specialty Scholarship application were entered into a contest which gave them a chance at one of 15 gift cards. Here is what was done in an effort to get students to complete these forms:

- First, these students were sent an email outlining the details of the incentive.
- The office called admitted students who had not yet completed the FAFSA application for 2021-2022.
- More than 140 students were contacted to discuss the benefits of FAFSA completion, as well as the specialty scholarship application.
- Following the phone calls, we had a current student create a short video encouraging other students to complete the applications and the importance of both. This video was sent via text to all students as a reminder to take advantage of the incentive. The purpose of doing this in December was to get applications in prior to estimated financial aid offers so more students would receive their estimate when this process was run at the beginning of January.
- Last year, our office ran estimated financial aid offers at the beginning of February, and at that time, 135 students had a FAFSA on file and were mailed their estimated offer. For aid year 2021-2022, we ran the estimated financial aid offer process at the beginning of January, and at that time, 170 students were eligible and received a letter in the mail. We also saw an increase in the specialty scholarship applications for new students.

Within the estimated offer letter, we included a postcard encouraging students to sign up for a one-on-one session with one of the counselors in our office. In these sessions, students would be able to discuss their estimated financial aid offer as well as receive answers to any of their questions.

A follow-up message is being developed that will be sent to these students from their Admissions counselor reminding and encouraging them to sign up for a financial aid session. Our office will continue to reach out to students and their families as well as participate in admissions events to provide financial aid counseling and resources for all students.

UMN Crookston health sciences senior, Deaira Gresham, has persevered with positivity throughout her life to get to where she is today. Gresham has always had a passion for helping others, but it wasn't until her mom suggested she try pharmacy, that Gresham's passion for health sciences and medicine grew.

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




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### News from Former Chancellor Wood Update

Former UMN Crookston Chancellor Fred Wood was recently named the Interim Executive Vice Chancellor of Academic and Student Affairs for The California State University. Wood served as the chancellor at Minnesota Crookston from July 2012-February 2017. He then served as chancellor for the Contra Costa Community College District from February 2017-March 2020 until his retirement from that position.

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### Congratulations!

Congratulations to UMN Crookston student Adrienne Schaunaman newly crowned Miss Black Hills Stock Show & Rodeo Queen. As Miss Black Hills Stock Show & Rodeo Queen, Adrienne will be an ambassador and advocate for the Black Hills Stock Show & Rodeo, South Dakota, the sport of rodeo and the western way of life.

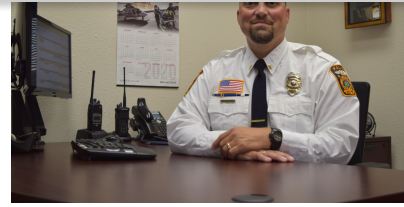
Adrienne is a senior from Aberdeen, SD majoring in Equine Business Management/Equine Science and competes on the Women Equestrian Team.




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### Alumni Profile

Minnesota Crookston for over 40 years. “I was familiar with the campus, several of the instructors, and knew UMN Crookston provided an exceptional education and learning experience,” Selzler said.



Selzler is currently the lieutenant of the Crookston Police Department. He has been employed by the department for 17 years and has worked as a patrol officer, drug task force officer, juvenile officer, and detective. Prior to working at the Crookston Police Department, he worked for the Polk County Sheriff’s Office as a deputy and worked court security and boat and water patrol. “My future career plans are to take over as Chief of Police of the Crookston Police Department,” he said.

“After earning my associates degree I began my career in law enforcement and, within a couple of years, I quickly learned that to stay competitive and for future advancement, I would need to further my education,” Selzler stated. He earned his associate of science degree in criminal justice from Northland Community and Technical College in Thief River Falls, Minn., his bachelor’s degree in criminal justice from UMN Crookston, and will graduate with his master’s degree in criminal justice leadership/administration in October 2020 from Concordia University, St. Paul, Minn.

Selzler says he was fortunate, as is the city of Crookston, to have such a top ranked university in their community. “Given my current work schedule/job description at the time, it would have been difficult, if not impossible, to attend any other university,” he said. During his tenure at the Polk County Sheriff’s Office, he worked with UMN Crookston senior lecturer, David Seyfried. “He had always promoted UMC and was instrumental in helping me register and navigate through my undergraduate coursework.

Growing up in Crookston and having a parent as a professor, Selzler said maroon and gold had always been a part of his life. “When thinking about what college to attend, UMC is a top ranked baccalaureate college in the U.S. that provides an outstanding state of the art learning experience on a small close-knit campus. UMN Crookston made the decision very easy, “why not attend UMC, he said?” Selzler says he is proud to have graduated from the University of Minnesota Crookston and proudly promotes wearing maroon and gold University of Minnesota apparel.

Selzler has been married for 22 years and has two adult children. His daughter is a master cosmetologist and is a manager of a hair salon in Grand Forks, N.D., and his son graduated from Crookston High School and is preparing for his freshman year of college where he will be studying electrical engineering. Selzler’s wife, Chandra, graduated from UMN Crookston in 2003 and is a financial worker for Polk County Social Services. They

