



UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA
CROOKSTON

CAMPUS WEEKLY UPDATE

#IAMCROOKSTON

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LEADERSHIP LETTER

From the Vice Chancellor

I hope you all enjoyed a much-needed three-day weekend in the midst of this rich season of religious holidays. The Bahá'í faith celebrated Naw-Rúz, their new year, on March 20. The Jewish community celebrated Pesach, commonly referred to as the Passover, between March 27

and April 4. Pesach commemorates their miraculous exodus from Egyptian slavery. Hindus celebrated Holi, the “Festival of Love” or “Festival of Colors” on March 28-29. Christians celebrated Easter on April 4 to honor the day when Jesus returned to life after having been executed three days before. And Muslims will soon observe Ramadan (April 12 through May 11), a month of prayer, fasting, and reflection.

As a Christian myself, I remember to observe Easter every year, but I confess that I too often forget to recognize the other holidays listed above. My omission can leave members of our community feeling left out, isolated, or invisible. When I am intentional about remembering and honoring these holidays, it can help to build a sense of belonging and relevance, an important element of our [Diversity, Equity, and Belonging Strategic Goals](#).

Relevance is also a defining characteristic of our campus, which is why I am pleased to see the [Discover the U of M for You](#) campaign describe UMN Crookston with the words “[Real, Hands-On, and Ready](#).” These words reinforce the way we take a hands-on approach to learning that ensures educational experiences are relevant for work and life in the real world. Of course, it takes more than rolling up one’s sleeves to make education relevant. We also need to connect instruction and practice to real-world issues, and we need to do so in ways that go beyond our own experience.

In order for us to keep education real and relevant, we also need to engage students about important issues of the day. It is essential we talk about the [trial of Derek Chauvin](#) and the killing of George Floyd, recent [mass shootings](#) including one targeting Asian American women, the loss of multiple police officers including the death of a capitol police officer on Friday, and the complex dynamics of the [Minnesota Supreme Court ruling](#) making the rape of an intoxicated woman a lesser crime until the Minnesota legislature fixes a loophole. Many of our students, faculty, and staff connect in very real ways to these issues. I recognize there are times when we do not know what to say, but whether intended or not, saying nothing can leave students feeling they are not important to others in our community. To learn more about how to engage in these conversations, you can access a [list of resources from the UMN Office for Equity and Diversity](#). Below are several additional recent and upcoming events. I strongly encourage you to take a moment to read the links and learn about the events so you can discuss them and help to make them real for our students.

- March 25-31 - [National Farmworker Awareness Week](#)
- March 31 - [César E. Chávez Day](#) and [International Transgender Day of Visibility](#)
- March 13 - April 15 - [National Deaf History Month](#)
- April - [Sexual Assault Awareness Month](#)
- April/April 2 - [Autistic Empowerment Month/Day](#)
- April 7 - [UMN Crookston Blood Drive](#)
- April 9 - [Day of Silence](#) (builds awareness of LGBTQ bullying)



Crookston Armory

COVID-19 Community Testing Sites

Here are some helpful links from the Department of Health to share with your communities:

- No-cost State Community Testing Sites: <https://mn.gov/covid19/get-tested/testing-locations/community-testing.jsp>
- Order an At-Home Test at no cost: <https://www.health.state.mn.us/diseases/coronavirus/testsites/athome.html>
- Test Location Finder Map: <https://mn.gov/covid19/get-tested/testing-locations/index.jsp>

Stay Safe MN Social Media Images

Help mobilize Minnesotans in the largest vaccination effort in our state's history by sharing your enthusiasm to get vaccinated, showing when you get your shot, and encouraging your network to roll up their sleeves when it's their turn. Get your Facebook frame [here](#). You can also find cover photos for Facebook, Instagram, Twitter, and more in the [social media toolkit](#).

Join in celebrating the 51st anniversary of Earth Day

UMN Crookston students have entered the campus into a friendly competition with college campuses across Minnesota to get involved with sustainability on our campus. The competition runs from Monday, April 12 through Sunday, April 25. Consider engaging in this effort and join [the University of Minnesota Crookston Team](#).

Global Studies Virtual Symposium, April 23, 2021

The Global Studies Virtual Symposium connects global studies scholars across campuses and offers an engaging teaching and learning forum for sharing best practices, ideas, and resources with colleagues. To learn more about this free symposium, register [here](#).

Horticulture - AgNatR Department

Campus Community Annual Bedding Plant Sale - April 28

Online shopping and pick-up available 12 to 5 p.m.



Empowering Entrepreneurs to Make a Difference Fellows program opens May 24 Are you an entrepreneur with a social enterprise idea? Become a [Fellow](#) and transform your vision into a scalable, sustainable venture that energizes and enriches Greater Minnesota. The Initiators Fellowship serves as a launching pad for Greater Minnesota change agents. The goal is to strengthen each Fellow's leadership within their respective communities and to support the growth and development of their social enterprise.



I Can Prevent Diabetes Program. This program is designed to help individuals lose weight, become more active, and achieve healthier lifestyles. Complete this [form](#) and a lifestyle coach will be in contact with you. Free Fitness Tracker for eligible participants. This is a fully online Zoom class.

Information Technology Computer Help Desk

[Migrate classic Google Sites to new sites by November 30.](#)

Google is replacing classic Sites with the new version of Google Sites. Owners of University of Minnesota classic Sites have until November 30 to migrate to the new Google Sites.

[U of M Summer of EngageMNT Community Partners](#)

Deadline: Saturday, May 1

The Office for Public Engagement and Center for Community-Engaged Learning seek applications for community partners for the University of Minnesota's 2021 Summer of EngageMNT, an initiative which identifies and coordinates remote community engagement opportunities for students to apply and develop their skills in response to current and emerging community needs. Community partners with potential remote volunteer opportunities available during June, July, and August may apply.

Preventing Sexual Misconduct, Discrimination, and Retaliation. This online module, required for all employees and student workers, is part of the ongoing [President's Initiative to Prevent Sexual Misconduct \(PIPSM\)](#). All employees and student workers will be required to complete this module by May 27, 2021.

Nominations are open for the UMN Crookston Distinguished P&A Award. Submit a letter of nomination electronically, outlining the nominee's qualifications to Chris Winjum, assistant to the Chancellor, cwinjum@umn.edu by April 19, 2021. The P&A award was established to annually recognize a member of the Professional and Administrative (P&A) staff who has made distinguished contributions to the mission of the University of Minnesota Crookston. This year's recipient will be recognized at the Staff Recognition event, receive a plaque, and a \$500 cash award. Nominations may come from administrators, faculty, staff, students or student organizations. Self nominations are also permitted.

Selection of the UMN Crookston Professional & Administrative Award will be based solely on the material included in the nomination.

Previous award winners are found [here](#).

Business Affairs Office

2021-2022 parking permits will be available for purchase starting in August 2021. Watch for an email from [Renee Mulcahy](#), finance professional, at the beginning of August.

The Student Orientation, Advisement & Registration (SOAR) launches virtually this week. Students will first navigate the Golden Eagle SOAR Experience via Canvas and learn important information and next steps about becoming a Golden Eagle. Upon completion of the virtual SOAR experience, students will select a date and time for their 1:1 Advising and Registration appointment that will take place via Zoom. Questions may be directed to [Brooke Novak](#).

2021 SOAR Dates

- June: 2,4,7,11,14,16, 21, 25
- July: 7, 9,14,19, 23, 30
- August 6

[CLICK FOR ALL EVENTS](#)

[CAMPUS UPDATES](#)

Financial Aid

Faculty and staff who would like to request a work study funded position(s) for next year should complete the following [request form](#). Deadline is Tuesday, April 20, 2021.

University Relations

When approached directly by a media representative for interviews or story ideas, please forward those contacts to [Shawn Smith](#) and complete this [short form](#). If you, faculty, staff, and/or students have a story idea, event, or activity, do the same by completing this [campus story/release recommendation form](#).

Athletics

The Minnesota Crookston baseball team was ranked 25th in the National Collegiate Baseball Writers Association Division II poll released Wednesday, March 25. The Golden Eagles were also ranked 26th in the Collegiate Baseball Division II poll. The rankings are the first for the UMN Crookston baseball program. The Golden Eagles will return to the diamond Saturday, April 10 at 1 and 3 p.m. and Sunday, April 10 at 12 and 2 p.m. Sunday's second game against Concordia-St. Paul will be a non-conference game. The Golden Eagles are allowing up to 250 fans at baseball games. The Minnesota Crookston baseball players are allowed four people per player, while Concordia-St. Paul is allowed up to two fans per player. You can sign in outside of the UMC Baseball Field for entry to the field. Masks are required and social distancing is expected. UMN Crookston is currently 13-1 (9-1 NSIC) on the season, the best start for the program in the NCAA Division II era (since 1999).

The softball program played their first games at home since April 2019 last weekend (April 2 and 3). The Golden Eagles forced extra innings on Friday against Sioux Falls in the first game, but fell 5-4. In game two, UMN Crookston fell 8-1. Saturday, the Golden Eagles were defeated by Southwest Minnesota State 11-2 and 10-4. UMN Crookston is currently 5-15 on the season. The Golden Eagles will be on the road this weekend. They take on University of Minnesota Duluth in Duluth, Minn. Tuesday, April 6 at 12 and 2 p.m. This weekend they will play at Minnesota State University Moorhead Saturday at 1 and 3 p.m., and Northern State University Sunday at 12 and 2 p.m.

The Golden Eagle men's golf team is competing Monday, April 5 and Tuesday, April 6 at the Mule Invitational in Warrensburg, Mo.

The UMN Crookston hunt seat equestrian team wraps up the season Saturday, April 10 and Sunday, April 11 at the Charles H. Casey Equine Arena at UTOC at 1 p.m. and 10 a.m. on the respective days. Senior parents will be the only people allowed to attend due to limited capacity. The Golden Eagles will also host the IHSA Regional Championships Sunday. The events, along with the baseball games and road softball games, will be streamed on the [NSIC Network](#).

The Golden Eagle tennis team wraps up their 2021 season at home at Choice Health and Fitness in Grand Forks, N.D. against Augustana University and University of Sioux Falls. They will honor current seniors Karli Renney and Samantha Hartung, along with 2020 senior Ashley Smith.

[HIGHLIGHTS](#)

Agriculture and Natural Resources Department

Hands-on learning is typical at the University of Minnesota Crookston, more so in March as students majoring in animal and equine science are in the heart of caring for newborns in several barns. It's lambing, kidding, calving, and foaling season on campus and animal and equine science faculty, staff, and students are busy providing support for both the lambs, kids, calves, foals, and mothers.

"Our animal science majors really enjoy our classrooms! We call them the barns, labs, paddocks, and stables. There's nothing quite like it, as our students are hands-on from day one," says Animal Science Instructor, Terrill Bradford. Careers ranging from A-Z, including large and small animals. "We are talking about A (animal nutrition) to Z (zoo managers), and everything between," Bradford says. At the University of Minnesota Crookston students get to work with cattle, goats, sheep, swine, and horses located right on the campus in northwest Minnesota.

This month, several mares are on campus to foal. You can hear the mares whinny as you enter the University Teaching and Outreach Center (UTOOC) stables. The UTOOC, built in the early 1990s, accommodated 25 horses for the equine management degree and three years later another 20 stalls were added to accommodate a growing academic program for an ever growing industry with the latest information technologies used by faculty, staff, and students to take care of the university's herd of 45 horses.

Nicky Overgaard, alumna and instructor of equine science at UMN Crookston said the equine science team uses live-streaming video technologies throughout the foaling season. "These horses are on our campus for two reasons, first to provide a comfortable environment for our partners' animals during birth and to provide a variety of teachable moments for our students. Hands-on is certainly the key within our equine program," says Overgaard.

"Our equine science, equine business management, animal science, and pre-veterinary degrees provide a broad-based management education which appeals to employers," Bradford said. UMN Crookston graduates understand and are able to manage the daily nutrition, health, and exercise/training needs of the animals in their care.

"The knowledge and skills necessary to succeed in equine or equine-related careers is what you'll find here," said Overgaard. Top it off with the business and management experience necessary to operate an equine or related business, both Bradford and Overgaard explained the programs focus on the business and management aspects of the animal and horse industry while maintaining strong relationships with affiliated agriculture industries. It is those relationships created that provides a broad-based management education which appeals to employers.

Equine science and animal science coursework includes computer and communications training, sales, and business management. Other required coursework is traditional to livestock, but students have the option of taking courses specific to their interests. Options also exist for students who wish to pursue pre-veterinary studies. UMN Crookston's pre-vet emphasis, which is a science-based program, includes curriculum needed to get into veterinary college. Through these hands-on activities, students gain an extra edge by getting their hands on the animals for labs in every equine and animal science class. "They not only help in the birthing process, but also assist in breeding, genetics, nutrition, basic animal handling skills, vaccinations, and many other skills needed to be successful upon entry into a doctor of veterinary medicine program," says Bradford.

"The students monitor the mares closely during foal watch," said Overgaard. "When she's close, the students will take turns staying overnight with her. Once parturition begins, the student will call faculty and staff to assist as well as others in their group so they can observe. It's a really great experience for them to have." The aftercare of the neonate foal and postpartum mare is just as important as students monitor them closely for their complete health and wellbeing.

Overgaard stated, "these mares are on campus from partners who are looking for a safe environment for their animals. While UMN Crookston has only been foaling for the last two years there is great potential for the students and our partners. We would love more opportunities to aid our community, region and state."

Among other things, both Overgaard and Bradford stated the foaling, calving, and lambing teaches students another dynamic piece of the industry. "It is exciting to work with a horse that you've known for a while perhaps since it was born, if only for a few weeks," Overgaard said.

