

## News Release

# Berland Grant Provides Opportunity at U of M Crookston for Individuals Considering a Return to School

By Melissa Dingman, Elizabeth Tollefson on Tuesday, April 3, 2007

CROOKSTON, Minn. (March 8, 2007) – Ever considered going back to school for your bachelor's degree? The University of Minnesota, Crookston (UMC) offers anyone who has not attended school for five years or more a unique incentive to return to the classroom. The David Berland Adult Opportunity Grant provides adults who have been out of high school or college for a minimum of five years the opportunity to take a college course without cost.

The Berland Grant pays tuition and fees for a maximum of four credits for one semester along with the required textbook. Individuals must register for an academic course of at least three credits to qualify.

Director of Financial Aid Melissa Dingmann is encouraging anyone interested in returning to school to check out what the Berland Grant is offering. "Anyone wanting to take that first step or thinking about returning to school should take advantage of this opportunity," Dingmann said. "It is a chance to take a class you are interested in or one that will help you decide if you would like to complete your degree. You really have nothing to lose by giving it a try."

Students who have received the grant are encouraged by the opportunity. "I was thrilled to receive this grant, as it helped me with the expense of the first semester when I came back to college after more than 13 years," said Carrie Pickett, a current student who is now in her second semester at UMC. "I was unsure if I would be able to make it through the program, but wanted to get started. This grant gave me the push I needed, and the first semester went great."

As part of the eligibility criteria, individuals may not have earned a bachelor's degree or be receiving any other financial aid or tuition reimbursement from another source. The David Berland Estate established the endowment for the express purpose of giving adults the opportunity to take college level courses.

For more information on the Berland Grant or other opportunities at UMC, please contact Melissa Dingmann at 218-281-8576 ([dingmann@umn.edu](mailto:dingmann@umn.edu)).

The University of Minnesota, Crookston (UMC) delivers more than 25 applied-science undergraduate degree programs and 50 concentrations, including online degrees, in agriculture; arts, humanities and social sciences; business; math, science and technology; and natural resources. UMC is dedicated to helping students and the region aim higher, reach further and dream bigger dreams. To learn more, visit [www.UMCrookston.edu](http://www.UMCrookston.edu).

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