

News Release

Wellness Center Grand Opening Celebration

By Elizabeth Tollefson on Wednesday, October 5, 2016

Students have been enjoying workouts in a new wellness center at the University of Minnesota Crookston since classes began in late August. A formal grand opening and ribbon cutting ceremony for the facility will be held during homecoming weekend on Saturday, October 15. The grand opening and ribbon cutting will begin at 11 a.m., but tours of the facility will be available at 10:30 a.m. and following the ceremony. All are welcome and parking is recommended in Lot G near the Kiehle Building.



The wellness center, a 36,000 sq. ft. facility, includes a two-court gymnasium, suspended walking/running track, weight/cardio area, multipurpose room for group exercise, and a classroom. Funding was approved in the 2014 Minnesota Legislative Bonding Bill, which included a \$10 million allocation, with an additional \$5 million to be raised for the wellness center project through philanthropic efforts and/or from university funding sources, for a total of \$15 million.

An 18 kW system located on top of the building is estimated to produce 6 to 10 percent of the building's electricity consumption. The solar PV system should produce about 23,000 kWh per year, and according to statistics, that is enough electricity to power two typical homes served by Otter Tail for a year. The purchase and installation of the solar array was made possible by a 50 percent matching grant from Otter Tail Power Company.

Following the grand opening, everyone is invited to the Homecoming Tailgate catered by Erickson Smokehouse with music by Four Wheel Drive.

Other Homecoming Activities

The theme for homecoming week is "The Golden Years" and marks the 50th anniversary of the campus as an institution of higher education. Recognition of the Outstanding Alumni, the Abbey Award recipient, and the induction ceremony for the Athletic Hall of Fame will be held during the annual Alumni Awards Celebration on Friday, October 14.

Other Saturday activities include Golden Eagle Football at 1 p.m. vs. University of Mary at Ed Widseth Field; Golden Eagle Volleyball at 4 p.m. vs. Minot State University in Lysaker Gymnasium; and the Alumni Hockey Game at 6 p.m. in the Crookston Sports Center with Marv Mattson, former faculty member announcing the game. For more information on Homecoming 2016, visit www.umcrookston.edu/homecoming.

The University of Minnesota Crookston now delivers 34 bachelor's degree programs, 22 minors, and 40 areas of emphasis on campus as well as 14 degree programs entirely online. These degrees are offered in the areas of agriculture and natural resources; business; liberal arts and education; and math, science and technology. With an enrollment of 1,800 undergraduates from more than 20 countries and 40 states, the Crookston campus offers a supportive, close-knit atmosphere that leads to a prestigious University of Minnesota degree. "Small Campus. Big Degree." To learn more, visit www.umcrookston.edu.

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