

## News Release

# UMN Crookston Teacher Candidates Receive GEER Grant to Aid in Critical Coursework During COVID-19 Pandemic

By Shawn Smith on Thursday, January 14, 2021

The University of Minnesota Crookston has 16 teacher candidates receiving support after the University of Minnesota was awarded a Governor's Emergency Educational Relief (GEER) Grant. The U of MN System's GEER project "Enhancing the Preparation of New Teachers to Impact Learning in Minnesota's PK-12 Schools" focused on meeting the needs of future teachers from the Twin Cities, Duluth, Crookston, and Morris campuses. This focus was selected because COVID-19 impacted—and will continue to impact—the progress of many teacher candidates who were in the midst of, or starting critical coursework that required clinical experiences and/or student teaching in PK-12 classrooms. Specifically, when candidates left their clinical placements and/or student teaching and had to navigate to online instruction, they were ill equipped with the technical equipment and tools needed to deliver remote instruction. In addition, some candidates' professional sustainability was challenged due to job loss during COVID (e.g., many were unable to pay tuition, had food and housing insecurity).

The University of Minnesota Crookston campus was awarded 16 grants. UMN Crookston received \$16,441 in total funding for the 16 teacher candidates with awards ranging from \$500-\$1,500. The awards were based on an application process. Preference was given to students teaching during Spring 2021 and who would enhance the diversity of the Minnesota PK-12 teaching force and impact PK-12 education in schools with underrepresented populations.

### About UMN Crookston

One of five campuses that comprise the University of Minnesota System, the University of Minnesota Crookston now delivers 34 bachelor's degree programs and 24 minors on campus as well as 16 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.

### About UMN

The University of Minnesota, with campuses in Crookston, Duluth, Morris, Rochester, and the Twin Cities, is driven by a singular vision of excellence. The University of Minnesota is proud of its land-grant mission of world-class education, groundbreaking research, and community-engaged outreach, and is unified in its drive to serve Minnesota.

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