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**LEADERSHIP LETTER**

**From the Chancellor**

Dear Faculty and Staff,

I hope you had a good weekend and a chance to enjoy the amazing autumn days. The autumn colors are exquisite. All the locals are saying this has been a really spectacular

and 黄色, Huángsè.

### **Campus Assembly**

We will hold a Fall Campus Update on Thursday, October 1, from 11:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.. At this meeting we will provide updates on campus enrollment, budget, athletics, campus committees, etc. Individuals can attend in person in Bede Ballroom or can watch it via Zoom using the connection information below. We will serve sandwich box lunches to those who come in person but seating is limited. If you would like to come in person, please contact Chris Winjum, [cwinjum@umn.edu](mailto:cwinjum@umn.edu), so he can track the seat availability.



Please click the link below to join the Campus Update webinar:

<https://umn.zoom.us/j/96474874745?pwd=Y1hiQ3hMV3Q1Mmkzb2FBMTBGVGFRdz09>

Passcode: Crookston1 or via Telephone by dialing (651) 372-8299 or (312) 626-6799 and Webinar ID: 964 7487 4745 and Passcode: 4628737200

### **Updates to the Spring Academic Calendar**

After reviewing feedback from faculty, staff, and students, and pending final approval from the Board of Regents, we have made a few changes to our academic calendar for spring 2021. We will keep the same start and end dates for the semester, and we will open the spring semester as we did this fall with a two-week 9 p.m. back to campus order. We will plan to test all students who live in the residence halls.

Faculty, especially those in Agriculture and Natural Resources, shared the importance of labs and field experiences at the end of the spring semester. For this reason, we decided against options to move classes online at the end of the semester, and we will also cancel spring break and replace it with a single “study day.” This should help to limit travel and reduce the likelihood of outbreaks that could cause students to miss classes during this important time of the school year.

### **Remember Maroon and Gold Fridays**

Let’s get into the Golden Eagle spirit and sport that great University of Minnesota Crookston gear on Fridays. Some of your colleagues looked pretty good last week in their Maroon and Gold. My camera will be on me this Friday to see who can top these good looks. Grace Menze I am having “M” envy with those great leggings.





Can you guess who all these masked people are? Answers posted by the Chancellor's Office.

**Working virtually?**

Show your spirit too. Lucky you — we won't ever know if you are dressed 100 percent in Maroon and Gold. You just have to show your spirit from the waist up.

**Exercising Your Right To Vote**

at [z.umn.edu/votes](https://z.umn.edu/votes) and make sure it is current.

Minnesota provides you with three reliable voting options:

1. You can vote in person on November 3 at your [polling place](#).
2. Using [z.umn.edu/votes](https://z.umn.edu/votes), you can apply to vote absentee by mail. (Your ballot must be postmarked by November 3 and arrive at your county election office by November 10.)
3. You can vote before Election Day at an early voting location or the county election office.

The deadline to pre-register to vote in Minnesota is October 13. After that, you must vote in person, either on Election Day or at an early voting location and register at that time. Make your voice heard.

## Community Health

So what can you do to keep our community safe during COVID-19?

Prevention - [Wear a face covering, wash your hands frequently, and most of all, avoid large gatherings where you cannot maintain physical distancing.](#) Ignoring these public safety precautions places our entire community at risk. We know that some in our community have underlying conditions that can increase their risk from COVID-19. Others may have at-risk relatives or friends to whom we could pass the virus, with potentially terrible results. But together, we can protect our entire community by making good choices. There will come a time where we can reflect on the challenges we currently face and the triumph of our collective willpower. But we need your help, today, to get there.

Report concerns - We know that so many of you are doing everything you can to stay safe and keep others safe. But if you have concerns, or see something that worries you, make a report to the [Dean of Student Engagement Savala DeVoge](#) for students or [UReport for faculty or staff](#).

We address each incident with a process that is rooted in education and learning, but we will not take lightly activities that put our entire community, and this fall semester, at risk.

Kindness and compassion - COVID-19 is relentless. We are all under a tremendous amount of pressure. If you are stressed and need help, please seek support through the wide variety of wellness resources available to [staff and faculty](#).

Be safe, be healthy and enjoy the yellow beauty around us.

What? You thought my favorite color was yellow. Wrong. It is Maroon and Gold of course.

## REQUIRED TRAINING

### COVID-19 Training for the Workplace

Together, we continue to carry out our mission of discovery, learning, and service with a shared commitment to ensuring the health and well-being of the University community. In support of workplace health and safety and the guidelines of an [executive order](#) from the governor, we have developed a short COVID-19 training module for University faculty, staff, and student workers. In the coming days, you will receive a link from [training@umn.edu](mailto:training@umn.edu). All University employees are expected to complete this training, as required by the governor's order.

This online module generally should take no more than 5-10 minutes to complete. It provides a high-level overview of basic health and safety information on how to prevent COVID-19 transmission and ensures that employees understand the expectations and processes in place to make our work and learning spaces as safe as possible.

Employees should complete the module during work time, and those without easy access to the module should check with their department heads, supervisors, managers, or unit HR staff to identify alternative access. The expectation is that faculty, staff, and student workers will complete the training within 30 days of receiving the link.

Thank you for your commitment to protecting our campus community.

## CAMPUS UPDATES

### National Coming Out Day

Stand in solidarity with the LGBTQ+ community and help build a Rainbow. Swing by the Sargent Student Center anytime from 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. to grab a cupcake and write a message of support.



The Office of Public Engagement is pleased to announce the call for nominations for the University of Minnesota 2021 Outstanding Community Service Awards (OCSA).

Established in 1999, the awards recognize faculty, staff, students, and University-affiliated community members who have made significant, demonstrable contributions to the public good.

There are four OCSA categories: (1) Outstanding Faculty Member Community Service Award; (2) Outstanding Student Community Service Award; (3) Outstanding Staff Community Service Award; and (4) Outstanding Community Partner Service Award.

Award nominations are due by 5 p.m., Friday, November 6, 2020. Full nomination guidelines can be found on the [awards web page](#).

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## From Online Teaching and Learning

- 1) **HyFlex/Blended course guide released** - [HyFlex Teaching at the University of Minnesota](#) provides instructors with useful information on what defines a blended/HyFlex course; scheduling options; suggestions on teaching in-person, remote, and online students simultaneously; identifying classroom technology requirements; and teaching tips.
- 2) **No charge access to over 3,800 Coursera courses and specializations extended through fall semester** - All students, faculty, and staff can now access over 3,800 online courses and 400 Coursera specializations at no charge. Register by Oct. 31 and complete by Dec. 31. This high-quality, electronic curricular material consists of a series of modules with 8 to 12 minute video segments, readings, assessments, and assignments. [Learn how to access Coursera content and supplement your U of M course content](#). For questions, contact Bob ([rmr@umn.edu](mailto:rmr@umn.edu)).
- 3) **Student online learning website and Canvas modules now available** - Members of the Online Steering Committee participated in teams that helped create two important new student-facing resources: The new [Learn Online website](#) provides students with helpful information about basic technology and learning tools, supporting student success, health and wellbeing, and academic tips for online learning (including getting organized, managing your learning environment, avoiding multitasking, and working in teams). The new

4) **Be thoughtful about requiring international students (especially those in China) to use VPNs** - Michelle Curtis (Associate Director, Office of Student Finance, Academic Support Resources, UMTC) passed on this article from Inside Higher Ed: "[To Use or Not to Use Virtual Private Networks.](#)"

5) **Coursera content creation grants available: deadline September 30** - Coursera is offering funding, content development, design and production and marketing support on a first come, first served basis to universities and academic units that are interested in creating new content that can be used both on the Coursera platform and for U of M for-credit academic courses. Please see attached for a list of the content that Coursera is soliciting from universities based on their recent market research. Most of the listings are for business, data science, and computer science but Coursera is also looking for 50+ "social justice" related courses covering everything from "How to inspire police reform in your community" to "Disparities in Health/ Healthcare." If you are interested in developing a course or specialization (similar to a relatively short non-credit certificate) that is on the attached list, please submit your interest by September 30 on the [Coursera content form](#) and let me know. Questions? Please contact Bob at [rnr@umn.edu](mailto:rnr@umn.edu)

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## From Dining Services

New campus dining hours starting Monday, September 28.

### Brown Dining

- Breakfast Tuesday only 7 a.m. - 9 a.m.
- Lunch 11 a.m. - 1 p.m.
- Dinner 5 p.m. - 6:30 p.m.

### Weekends

- Brunch 11:30 a.m. - 1 p.m.
- Dinner 5 p.m. - 6:30 p.m.

### Eagles Nest

Caribou Coffee will open for limited hours.

## Caribou

- Monday, Wednesday through Friday 7 a.m. - 10 a.m.

## Closed Tuesday

## Evergreen Market

Starting Monday, it will feature an expanded c-store and our signature Simply TO-GO program of fresh daily made sandwiches, wraps, salads and more.

We still will feature Blue Bunny Ice Cream as well as the F'Real Shakes.

The Dining Room will be closed and use as a staging area for those waiting to come in to the Market, the space is small so a limited number of people will be allowed in at one time.

## Hours

- Monday through Friday 11 a.m. to 8 p.m.
- Closed on the weekends.

To everyone who has been dining at Brown this semester, thank you for welcoming the changes we have had to make to serve you in a safe manner. Since we are doing so well a few things are changing and going back to a little more of last year. Drinks will be self served now. Cups will be handed out by the cashier and if you need a refill pick up a new glass from the dining room attendant. The ice cream machine is coming back as well, plus the condiment pumps. These will be cleaned and disinfected every 30 minutes to keep us all safe as we move forward. Thank you again for your patience.

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## From Human Resources

Any active direct deposits for employees inactive greater than 39 days are inactivated for the employee's safety. If the employee returns to work after 39 days of being inactive, they will need to re-enter their direct deposit information in MyU under MyPay.

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## From Global Programs and Strategy Alliance

The Internationalizing the Curriculum and Campus team in the Global Programs and

aimed at promoting student engagement in globally diverse classes.

University of Minnesota participants are eligible to receive a **“Teaching in Globally Diverse Classes” Certificate** from the GPS Alliance.

Learn more and register [here](#).

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## Promotion and Tenure

[Promotion and Tenure Dossier Review for Community-Engaged Faculty Info Session](#)—  
**Thursday October 22, 2020**

Faculty members who conduct community-engaged research and/or teaching and are approaching the promotion and tenure process are invited to attend an information session about the University's Review Committee on Community-Engaged Scholarship. An initiative of the Office for Public Engagement and the Vice Provost for Faculty and Academic Affairs, the Review Committee on Community-Engaged Scholarship is composed of tenured professors from diverse disciplines and professional fields. [Register now](#).

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## — FACULTY & STAFF UPDATES —

### Farewell

- Jonathon Fuller, Human Resources, UMN Crookston

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## — HIGHLIGHTS —

### From International Programs

Fall officially started last week and what came to mind was apples. The international students made a trip to an apple orchard to learn about Johnny Appleseed and the different varieties of apples grown in northern Minnesota from Gary Kircher of Garden Hills Farms in Fertile, MN. Gary also showed them his pumpkin patch and demonstrated how to

Back on campus, we introduced students to an all-time American favorite fall dessert--apple pies! The students spent Friday afternoon peeling and cutting apples and making delicious apple pies. For many students, this was their first experience making apple pies and we suspect they will proudly show off their new skill to family and friends in the future. We'd like to thank Ned and Lucy for allowing our students to use Brown Dining facilities.




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#### Alumni Profile: Kari Torkelson 1991

1. I attended the University of Minnesota Crookston from 1989-91 and then attended North Dakota State University from 1991-1993. At that point, I was one credit short of my bachelor's degree but because of my prerequisite classes I was still admitted to Indiana University-School of Optometry. I received my bachelor of science in optometry in 1995 and my doctor of optometry degree in 1997. My optometry career began with Dr. Jeffery B. Yunker and Associates which had offices in the Fargo and Grand Forks, ND Wal-Mart stores. Then, in 2003 he built a private office in Grand Forks, ND called Lifetime Vision



2. The main reason I chose to attend the University of Minnesota Crookston (UMN Crookston) was because I was recruited to play basketball and volleyball. It had other advantages of being close to home, small class sizes, and a good reputation for classes being able to transfer (UMN Crookston was a two-year school). At that time, I was planning on becoming an architect and it offered drafting classes. I found out that I didn't particularly like that field and decided to become an optometrist. I was also offered a Presidential Scholarship for my academic success which was very helpful.

3. There were MANY faculty and staff who made an impact on my student experience. In fact, I would say it is the people of UMN Crookston who made my experience so positive. My faculty advisor, Jerry Knutson, was my instructor, advisor, and biggest advocate. Then, Janna Hjelseth, was my volleyball and basketball coach. Most of my time outside of the classroom in Lysaker Gymnasium. I was also in the choir and had a role in one of the musicals, so I spent many hours with George French. During my sophomore year I was a resident advisor and worked for Gary Willhite and Andrew Svec. I was a member of campus ministry and Collette Conati led that group. Then there is the long list of others like Don Sargeant, Jack Bywater, Dale Knotek, Marv Bachmeier, Bob Johnson, Ray Tate, Butch Schleicher, Bill Tyrrell, Cleon Melsa, John Zak, Lynne Mullins, Sharon Neet, Bill Peterson, Gary Senske, Jim Sims and MANY others. UMN Crookston was a place where I felt like I was noticed and people cared about me, my education, and my future.

4. I take great pride in the Maroon and Gold of UMN Crookston. As a former student-athlete, it was an honor to wear Maroon and Gold as I represented the university on and off the court. As a student-athlete, I enjoyed being able to walk around the campus in my Maroon and Gold. I also liked the feeling of being part of a team in our school colors as we made our way onto opposing teams' campuses. I felt a sense of unity in our goal to beat the opponent. Now, as an alum, that Maroon and Gold pride might be even more intense because I am so proud of our student-athletes. I am proud of their academic success and the achievements made on the court, field and in the arena.

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## Mask Up

Eagles Protecting Eagles. Learn more about how we can [#ProtectTheNest](#) together at the link below.

<https://protectthenest.crk.umn.edu/>

\*If you feel sick, **stay home** and away from others.



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[CLICK FOR ALL EVENTS](#)

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