

News Release

Incoming Freshmen, Transfer Numbers Up at University of Minnesota Crookston

By Krista Lemos on Friday, October 13, 2006

CROOKSTON, MN (October 13, 2006) – Enrollment numbers are up for fall 2006 for incoming freshmen, transfer and international students at the University of Minnesota Crookston (UMC). Online credit hours are on the rise as well, noted UMC Chancellor Charles H. Casey as he outlined a campus vision that provides outstanding student experiences and education and ensures academic quality and stability for the campus.



Casey celebrated successes while presenting the campus update at the meeting of the University of Minnesota Board of Regents held October 13 at the Crookston campus. The 12-member Board of Regents is the governing body of the University of Minnesota.

"Retention is important to our future," Casey said. "Equally important is our ability to attract new freshmen and new transfer students to come here in the first place."

Enrollment of full-time, degree-seeking students is 1,053 this fall, which includes 379 freshmen and transfers up from 312 in 2005. There are also 56 international students on campus this year compared with 30 last year. And online credit hours have increased by more than 10 percent alone.



Student satisfaction and the high level of faculty commitment are also evidenced, Casey said, by UMC's recent continued full 10-year accreditation by the Higher Learning Commission and being named by U.S. News & World Report as one of the best comprehensive public colleges in the Midwest.

"Surveys tell us that students choose the University of Minnesota, Crookston because of our faculty and the programs we offer," Casey said. "We know the quality of the education students receive is directly related to the commitment of our faculty, and this is a vital base to build upon."



UMC senior Amanda Munch, Beltrami, Minn., who is majoring in communication, also spoke about her experiences, specifically addressing how important scholarships have been in forwarding her educational career.

"I knew they were adding a communication program [at UMC]," Munch said. "This degree intrigued me, but when I received a scholarship from UMC, that's what motivated me to come here instead of going elsewhere."

Casey also discussed plans to enhance the breadth of academic programs and UMC's ongoing commitment to add value to the University of Minnesota system and to this region of the state through partnerships, public engagement and service-learning opportunities.

Improvements to facilities which support student learning were also highlighted. On October 12, UMC dedicated Centennial Hall, a modern, apartment-style living and learning center, which has helped spur a 25 percent increase in the number of students living on campus.

Recruitment and retention efforts are also moving ahead on a variety of levels with a 3-year retention plan, mentoring program for all new freshmen, monthly social activities for advisees and advisors and establishment of baseline data for evaluation purposes.

The University of Minnesota Crookston (UMC) delivers more than 24 different undergraduate degree programs, including online options, 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 big dreams. To learn more, visit www.UMCrookston.edu.

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