

News Release

U of M Crookston's Kevin Thompson, Ph.D., selected to present at University of Minnesota Quality Fair January 25, 2007

By Kevin Thompson, Elizabeth Tollefson on Friday, January 19, 2007

CROOKSTON, Minn. (January 10, 2007) – Providing exceptional support to online students will be the focus of an improvement-project poster display by Kevin Thompson, Ph.D. from the University of Minnesota, Crookston (UMC). The poster session will take place at the first-ever Quality Fair to be held Thursday, Jan. 25, 2007, at the McNamara Alumni Center on the Twin Cities campus.



Kevin Thompson, Ph.D., will present at the University of Minnesota's first-ever Quality Fair.

The poster displays the progress on a grant Thompson was awarded by the Office of Service and Continuous Improvement (OSCI) at the University. The grant allows for greater scrutiny of the support services provided to online students at UMC. His poster entitled, "Student Evaluation of Support Services for Online Courses" centers on promoting an effective organizational culture that is committed to excellence and responsive to change as it relates to UMC's online students. Results of this research will help to ensure a positive experience and allow for continuous improvement efforts in those departments that provide student support services. Thompson's poster is one of 40 systemwide submitted to the Office of Service and Continuous Improvement (OSCI).

"As the only campus in the University of Minnesota system to deliver undergraduate degrees online," Thompson states, "it is imperative we develop high quality online courses and programs to help expand and more effectively utilize the resources we already have in place. These resources include such things as the Instructional Technology Center (ITC); admissions; financial aid; the library; the UMC Bookstore, the Center for Adult Learning (CAL) and others.

The Quality Fair, billed as the "great University of Minnesota get together," is an opportunity for students, faculty and staff to gather for networking and collaboration. The purpose of the morning-long session is to learn about innovation and implementation of great ideas to make the University more efficient and effective. Activities include remarks from University president Robert H. Bruininks, improvement project poster displays and break-out sessions. To learn more about the Quality Fair, visit www.umn.edu/osci.

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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