

## News Release

# U of M Crookston Names Some of the Top Stories for 2010

By Itollefs on Monday, January 3, 2011

Some of the top stories from the past year listed in no particular order:

The Campus Energy Challenge was launched in fall 2010 after preparations last spring. The Campus Energy Challenge goal for the U of M, Crookston, is to better understand that the choices made about electrical use have a global impact and to reduce energy consumption by up to 15 percent through simple changes in behavior.

The Collegiate Crops Team found great success by placing second in both national competitions in Chicago and Kansas City. Crops teams from the Crookston campus have placed in the top three more than 25 times over their history.

A partnership between the College of Veterinary Medicine (CVM) at the University of Minnesota and the Agriculture and Natural Resources Department on the Crookston campus expanded the Veterinary Food Animal Scholars Track (VetFAST) program. The VetFAST program was designed to meet the demand for veterinarians across the country, and address the shortage of veterinarians for food animals.

We welcomed several new faculty to campus including Eyad Youseff, Lisa Leiran, Matthew Simmons, and Dennis Maier.

The University of Minnesota, Crookston contributes \$50 million annually to the local and regional economy, according to a study completed by University of Minnesota Extension's Center for Community Vitality. The economic impact of the Crookston campus supports a total of 602 jobs and \$25.1 million in labor income.

The campus celebrated 35 years of Ag Arama.

The EDA Center, under the leadership of Center Director Jack Geller, began its second year of projects aiding several communities in the state.

The Golden Eagle Equestrian team is leading in points in the region after some very successful shows this fall and Chuck Moller has been hired as the new head coach for Golden Eagle Football.

The campus announced a new degree program in Environmental Sciences. The program prepares students for a broad range of careers including environmental protection specialists, water quality managers, aquatic scientists, forest carbon specialists, ecotoxicologists, and environmental health and safety specialists, among others, and it also prepares students for graduate-level studies.

International students offered a unique after-school program in the Crookston High School that featured the language and culture of China.

We dedicated a beautiful addition to our Campus Mall this fall thanks to the generosity of Alumnus Harris A. Peterson to complete the Centennial Park Flag project.

For the 13th consecutive year, the campus has been recognized in the top four by U.S. News and World Report as a top public regional college in the Midwest and Princeton Review named the campus one of the "Best in the Midwest" for the 4th consecutive year.

Online degree programs are growing and accounting was added this year making 7 degree programs available online. Credit hours online have increased by 25 percent for fall semester 2010 compared to fall 2009.

There were 44 students inducted into the campus chapter of the National Society of Leadership and Success and our Students in Free Enterprise took home their 11th title as regional champions.

The Math, Science, and Technology (MST) Department is home to a unique virtual immersion and informatics lab. The lab uses cutting-edge technology to create 3-D simulation. The lab gives students the chance to work directly with some of the most advanced visualization and computer graphics technologies available.

The Center for Rural Entrepreneurship Studies will begin their work in January 2011 thanks to \$550,000 grant from the U.S. Department of Education. The Center will expand connectivity to the region's educational institutions, economic development organizations and financial institutions, as well as to state and federal small business support agencies and aspiring entrepreneurs in Northwest Minnesota.

Enrollment on the campus reached an historic level this past fall when we reached 1,462 students in the fall. This marks a five-year trend of increasing enrollment and a third year of record enrollment. The University of Minnesota, Crookston now delivers 29 undergraduate degree programs and welcomes students from more than 29 countries and 40 states.

To learn more, visit [www.umcrookston.edu](http://www.umcrookston.edu).

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