

## News Release

# UMC Once Again a ThinkPad U – Custom-Built IBM/Lenovo Laptops On the Way for Students

By Elizabeth Tollefson, Jeff Sperling on Wednesday, August 2, 2006 CROOKSTON, MN (August 1, 2006) – With the fall semester roll out of the custom-built ThinkPad (R-60) laptop to all students and faculty at the University of Minnesota, Crookston (UMC), the campus continues to lead the way in innovation – building upon the strong tradition of technology integration in the classroom.

"We are technology driven at the University of Minnesota, Crookston. Our laptop initiative is just one example of how we strive to broaden the educational experience for our students," Chancellor Charles H. Casey said. "Students gain a technology advantage, and our alumni and business partners continue to tell us that the laptop experience provides a distinct edge in the workplace, putting graduates one step ahead in this global economy."

The competitive bidding process for the laptops included proposals from five leading industry vendors and IBM/Lenovo came out ahead overall in hardware, price, warranty and maintenance, and project management. Lenovo is the laptop's manufacturer.

"The new machines are designed and engineered to meet the demands of a university environment," Director of Technology Services Jeff Sperling said. "The evaluation team did their homework before choosing this particular machine and a vendor with proven leadership in the academic sector."

IBM partnership opportunities also include memberships to their ThinkTank annual conference and participation in the company's Academic Initiative which includes courseware, training, tools, books, and discounts.

ThinkPads first made their debut on the campus in 1993 when UMC began its leading-edge ThinkPad-U initiative. IBM was the laptop of choice for nearly a decade, as IBM continued to be the most competitive. UMC remains the only University of Minnesota campus to provide laptops for all students and faculty.

The University of Minnesota, Crookston (UMC) delivers more than 24 different undergraduate degree programs 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](http://www.UMCrookston.edu).

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