

News Release

Junior Emily Gruber Reflects on College Decision

By Emily Gruber on Monday, October 10, 2016

From the moment I stepped foot on campus, I thought the University of Minnesota Crookston would be a perfect place to call home. And I was right.

Don't get me wrong, I was skeptical of visiting a small university in what felt like the middle of nowhere. I grew up in Big Lake, Minnesota, and graduated from Monticello High School about an hour north of the Twin Cities. I was used to being in cities with a population much larger than Crookston, and I felt I was a little out of my element. The faculty, staff, and students who were involved in my campus visit completely changed my ideas and for that change I am forever grateful.

I am fortunate enough to say I am a member of the Golden Eagle Women's Basketball team. Being a student athlete has tested me in ways that I never could have imagined, but I wouldn't trade it for the world. The University of Minnesota Crookston and the Golden Eagle Athletic Department have given me amazing opportunities. My teammates have turned into lifelong friends and I've been able to travel to places other people only dream of. Because of basketball, I've traveled to Hawaii, Puerto Rico, and our team has plans to travel to Michigan, Texas and more. Trust me; there aren't many other players in our conference who can say the same.



Being able to represent the University of Minnesota Crookston is one of the greatest honors. Our team has taken steps in the right direction, and it has shown through our conference tournament appearances. I take a lot of pride in how far our program has come, and I can only thank the alumni and coaches who have helped us reach this point.



My memorable experiences at the U of M Crookston don't stop on the basketball court. This past summer I worked as a communications assistant with University Relations. Staying in Crookston for the summer was something I had never thought of doing. Because of my internship, I was able to gain a great deal of experience in the communication field, all while making new friendships with students, faculty, and staff members.

Working closely with the Office of Development & Alumni Relations office has opened my eyes to the fascinating history of the campus. There wasn't a day that went by when I didn't learn something new about this place. I get excited when I can tell my friends or family members stories about the University. I think being knowledgeable about our history makes me more appreciative of our school today.

To this day, I have never regretted my decision to come to UMC. I am thankful for all of the opportunities I have been given because of this great institution. I have about a year and a half left until I graduate from the U of M Crookston and I am hoping to make the most of it through more new opportunities. I know that when it's all said and done, Crookston will always hold a special place in my heart.

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