

[View this email in your browser](#)



**LEADERSHIP LETTER**

**From the Chancellor**

**Dear Students,**

I hope you took advantage of the long weekend to get caught up on classwork and were able to acknowledge the contribution of Martin Luther King, Jr. Historians tell us that on the day before he was assassinated, associates said MLK was tired, weary and feeling ill from his work. He hadn't intended to give his planned speech in support of the striking sanitation workers. But according to accounts, he was surprised by an urgent phone call indicating a large crowd had braved the weather to hear him. So he went to the hall and spoke for forty minutes, delivering what some say was his greatest speech, "[I've Been to the Mountaintop](#)." The next day he was murdered, but his speech and impact still inspire people around the world.

### **What should we name it?**

Last year, the Minnesota Department of Transportation conducted a contest to name the snow plows. Well, after plowing through more than 122,000 votes cast, the following names were the winners last year. The 2022 [contest is now open](#).

The winning 2021 names in order of vote totals, and their DOT district homes are:

- Plowy McPlowFace – Metro District
- Ope, Just Gonna Plow Right Past Ya – District 4
- Duck Duck Orange Truck – District 1
- Plow Bunyan – District 2
- Snowbi Wan Kenobi – District 6
- F. Salt Fitzgerald – District 7
- Darth Blader – District 3
- The Truck Formerly Known As Plow – District 8

### **COVID and Mask Updates**

Many of you are perhaps thinking getting the Omicron variant of the COVID-19 virus is inevitable. But health officials say it is not and don't give up on prevention strategies that can still make a critical difference particularly in coming weeks. Limiting transmission is more important now than ever, to protect vulnerable people and curb the number of workers being sidelined in hospitals, schools and other essential services.

I appreciate those of you who I see diligently wearing your masks as I walk around campus or at the Wellness Center, though honestly I have to remind many of you to put your masks on or pull them up to cover your nose. Please remember that wearing a mask is about protecting others from an infection you may not realize you are carrying, and it is also about protecting others who may be more vulnerable to the disease than you are.

Studies continually show that masking is very effective in mitigating the spread of COVID-19, including the latest Omicron variant. As you know, masks are only effective if worn properly to fully "seal" over your

mouth and nose, and even then, some masks are much more effective than others. Studies have shown the KN95 is more effective than cloth masks and disposable paper masks..

We have procured enough KN95 masks for each student to get one mask if you choose that type. You can pick up a KN95 mask at the Mail Center counter. Again, we only have enough supply for one mask for each student at this time, but these may be a good option.

Be well and wear your mask,

Chancellor Mary

---

## CAMPUS UPDATES

### Campus Updates

#### COVID-19

Steps to enhance the University's COVID-19 response and contribute responsibly to our communities have been updated. In alignment with our commitment to public health, last Friday the announcement of a new, temporary proof of vaccination policy. This policy will be in effect from Wednesday, January 26 through at least Wednesday, February 9 at indoor events on any University campus—both in the Twin Cities and across the state.

#### Human Resources

Congratulations to Jason Tangquist for accepting the permanent role of Director of the Office of Registrar. Jason will also continue to serve as the Title IX Coordinator for students.

#### Student Health

Blood Donors needed! Register for the upcoming Blood Drive, Monday, February 7, from 8:30 - 1:15, located in the Wellness Center. Register online: [DONORS.VITALANT.ORG](https://DONORS.VITALANT.ORG) Blood Drive Code: UMC

#### Student Success Center

##### GRE Study Group

Planning to take the GRE? Don't know what to expect? Not sure how to study? Sign up for a GRE study group led by Kelsey Torgerson. Study sessions will teach students what to expect from the test, how to find and use GRE resources, and ways to be accountable. Three sections, quantitative reasoning, verbal reasoning, and analytical writing will be covered. Study sessions are an hour every other week (in person or Zoom options available), beginning in February. Interested students should fill out this form by Friday, January 28. Questions, contact [Kelsey Torgerson](#).

## EVENTS

### Institute for Advanced Study, Transdisciplinary Engagements with Indigenous Thinkers Learning Community

Vern Northrup, Akinomaage: Teaching from the Earth, January 20 at 3:30. This event is free, open to all, and will be held via Zoom webinar. Registration is required to receive access to Zoom via email.

**Writing Center**

Consider contributing your original creative writing, artwork, or photography to the [Inspired Art Journal](#). This is an opportunity to share your creative writing or artwork with the UMN Crookston community and get published. The Inspired Art Journal welcomes submissions of original fiction, non-fiction, poetry, photography, and other visual artwork from any present or past students, faculty, or staff members. Use the [Inspired Art Journal](#) link to upload your submissions, submissions are accepted through January 31.

**Agriculture and Natural Resources****North American Colleges and Teachers of Agriculture (NACTA) car washes**

Support the NACTA students as they fundraise for their annual NACTA competition. Contact Melissa Hammer at [hamme734@crk.umn.edu](mailto:hamme734@crk.umn.edu) to schedule a time. All vehicles are cleaned indoors in the Kiser Building, and can be picked up and dropped off for your convenience.

**Wellness Center**

Noon Ball, an open gym with pickup basketball games for all students and faculty/staff. Students, faculty and staff who are not Wellness Center members can participate in Noon Ball free. January, every Monday and Wednesday at noon.

**Ag Arama**

January 29th join the Ag and Natural Resources department for the [47th annual Ag Arama](#). An important school tradition since 1975, back when UMN Crookston was a two-year institution, the idea of Ag Arama was to get students to come back to campus for a second semester instead of staying home to work on their respectable farms. Animal Science instructor and Ag Arama coordinator Terrill Giannonatti-Bradford says "We often refer to it as 'homecoming' for the Agriculture students." Giannonatti-Bradford is accompanied by a committee of students involved in agriculture and natural resources to help plan and operate Ag Arama weekend.