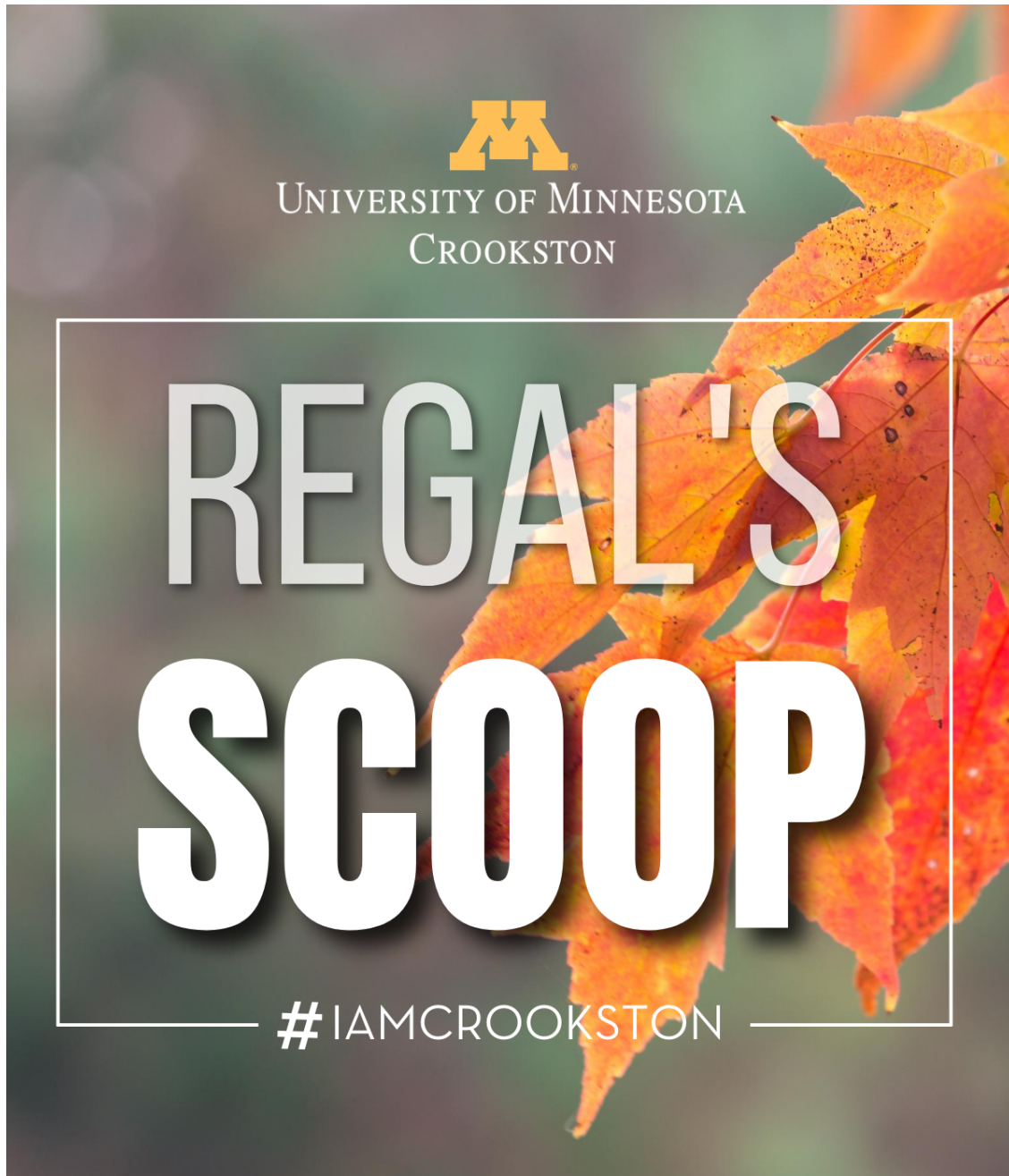


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## LEADERSHIP LETTER

### From the Vice Chancellor

On Friday, Supreme Court Justice Ruth Bader Ginsberg passed away. Perhaps you view “RBG” as a “shero” - a woman who rose out of poverty, who became the second woman to serve on the U.S. Supreme Court, and who was known for how she fought for equal rights

issues. Or perhaps you do not follow politics closely and you do not know who she was. Regardless, Ruth Bader Ginsberg was a historic figure, and it is appropriate for us to take a moment to consider her legacy.



Of the many important aspects of her story, I invite you to consider that Ginsberg, one of the most liberal justices on the court, was close friends with one of the court's most conservative justices, Antonin Scalia, who passed away in 2016. (If you have not heard this story, I invite you to take one minute to listen to or read the ["Ginsberg and Scalia: 'Best Buddies'"](#) NPR article from four years ago.) As we enter the peak of an election season during a time when the United States is deeply divided along political lines, I suggest there is a great lesson for us in their relationship. Let me speak for myself. Too often, when I engage others who have different values, worldviews, or lived experiences than me, I begin by trying to get them to understand my view better. At times, I jump directly to trying to prove them wrong. Imagine if instead, I began by focusing on the relationship and trying to understand better what they see or know that falls outside of my realm of understanding. I am not suggesting that I should simply cave on issues that are important to me (neither Scalia nor Ginsberg ever did this), but what do I have to lose in starting from a position that considers the humanity of others? Whereas political ads will try to convince us that the other side is evil or dangerous, the reality is almost always that those with views different than mine are good, caring people. What's more, we make the claim at UMN Crookston through our diversity, equity, and belonging strategic priority that the world is a better place because diverse people have unique cultures, identities, and ways of knowing, being, and doing.

Last week marked the beginning of National Hispanic Heritage Month, which celebrates the histories, cultures, values, ideas, and contributions of Americans whose ancestry traces back to Mexico, Central and South America, and the Caribbean. This is especially important to us in the City of Crookston as we are home to the largest Hispanic population in the northern half of Minnesota and the eighth largest rural Hispanic population in the state. This diversity within our community largely traces back to migrant workers from Mexico and Central America who came here 90 years ago to help with the emerging sugar beet industry. Those of you who are returning students may remember that we celebrated this history last year with the ["Roots of the Red River Valley"](#) exhibit designed and curated by Kenny Mendez and Megan Beck Peterson, and many of the photos are available to you through our library archives.

As we celebrate Hispanic Heritage Month, I invite you to explore the unique values, ideas, and contributions of the Hispanic community--consider what it is that Hispanic people see

opportunity to learn about others. Regardless, it is important that we recognize the increasing diversity of our communities as one of our greatest opportunities. Too often throughout history, singular groups of people have engaged in trying to solve society's challenges. As the challenges we face become increasingly complex, we can no longer afford to go it alone--we must focus on learning from one another and bringing our diverse ways of knowing, being, and doing into businesses, organizations, and communities in order to take on the challenges of the 21st Century.

## CAMPUS UPDATES

### From UMN School of Nursing

The Pre-Health Student Resource Center on the University of Minnesota Twin Cities campus is a specialized career center for students interested in health careers. They support students as they explore health career options, prepare a well-rounded and competitive application portfolio, and apply for health professional degree programs. Here are a few highlighted resources from the Pre-Health Student Resource Center that are available to all UMN students at all system campuses.

- [Virtual Drop-In Sessions](#): 2-3 times a week, drop into a Zoom Room and chat with a PHSRC staff member
- [Health Careers Fair](#): Coming up soon with a two week online event (Sept 28 - Oct 9)
- [Health Program Action Plans](#): a customizable online document to help students keep track of all the pieces of their application portfolio
- [PHSRC Webinar Series](#): Fall 2020 webinars, some specifically for a first-gen pre-health audience
- [PHSRC Courses](#): Even if some classes return to in-person in the spring, our AHS 1102: Orientation to Health Careers course is always an online option for students exploring health professions
- Sign up for our [Pre-Health monthly newsletter](#)

For more information contact

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## UMN Crookston Cancels Homecoming Festivities

Following guidance from the Minnesota Department of Health, which limits hosting events of no more than 25% of a maximum capacity of 250 persons, UMN Crookston will not hold the traditional homecoming this year. It was scheduled for November 6-7, 2020. The Crookston Student Association (CSA) along with students involved with Golden Eagle Entertainment (GEE) are making plans for student-only events this fall in lieu of homecoming.

Decisions regarding COVID-19 potential impacts at UMN Crookston are made with placing the health and safety of our students, campus community, and visitors first. This is done in conjunction with the University of Minnesota and follows guidance from the [Center for Disease Control](#), [Minnesota Department of Health](#), and [Polk County Public Health](#).

## HIGHLIGHTS

### Staff Feature: Amy Lubarski, Help Desk Manager

#### 1. Tips for on-campus and online students:

Create a comfortable space free from distractions for you to study and participate in any online classes. Work in good lighting, schedule breaks, add plants, a salt lamp, maybe print out a motivational quote where you can always see it.

Try to keep a positive outlook. These are crazy times! But through it all we will build resiliency, learn new skills we wouldn't otherwise have the opportunity to learn, be adaptable, and find different ways to connect with each other.

I also highly recommend getting to know people with different backgrounds than you. It's a great opportunity to grow as an individual and see the world from another's perspective.



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Life's most persistent and urgent question is, 'What are you doing for others?' - MLK Jr. Helping others can bring a lot of joy and happiness to both the lives of others and our own. Small acts can have a big impact!

### **3. Favorite Activity:**

Prior to COVID-19, most of my evenings and weekends consisted of shuttling my children to their activities. Between football, basketball, track and dance, we keep busy! As much as I really miss watching them play, I've really been enjoying this extra time with them at home. I've also gotten to spend more time baking, which is my favorite thing to do. It's a great way to relieve stress and express creativity, and always fun to share the end results. I also really enjoy reading and usually have 2-3 books going at a time.

### **4. Favorite Travel Location:**

We don't get to travel much having three kids involved in so many activities, but when we do get the opportunity we love Sanibel Island in Florida. It's nice and quiet with fun restaurants and shopping, a relaxed atmosphere and gorgeous beaches.

### **5. Fun anecdote/story:**

The University of Minnesota system has always been a huge part of my life. My grandfather taught at the St. Paul campus and my father was a Math Professor here in Crookston. I attended daycare at the ECDC many years ago and spent a lot of time on campus growing up. I attended UMN Crookston as a PSEO student my last two years of high school. I was going to go elsewhere after graduation to major in Piano Performance, but decided to stay and major in ITM. My oldest son just started his second year at the U of M Twin Cities.

I worked as a student at the Computer Help Desk, so it really came full circle when I ended up back in that same space seven years ago as the Help Desk Manager.

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