Thank you to all of you who have been so supportive and caring to all of our students, but especially the football students this past week. As questions have come in, we have worked hard to respond as quickly as possible. As our goal is to be as communicative and transparent as possible, I am including several of the most commonly asked questions and responses below.

Why did you choose to announce the decision at this time?
On December 5, the NSIC board voted to change its bylaws dropping the requirement that every institutions offer football as one of its sponsored sports. Prior to the bylaw change, the NSIC was one of only two conferences in Division II that required football.

We made the announcement of our decision to discontinue football as quickly following the NSIC bylaw change as possible. Our goal was to make the announcement quickly so that students who had an interest in transferring next year could get into the transfer portal. We also wanted the football players to talk with their families over the holiday break to make the right decision for them. Lastly, it was important that we prepare a team of advisors, counselors, financial professionals, and eligibility specialists to be available to our football players immediately following the announcement. This included taking steps necessary to ensure that we can honor the scholarship awarded to any football player who chooses to remain at UMN Crookston and complete their degree.

Why did UMN Crookston decide to discontinue football?
UMN Crookston is committed to providing students with the highest quality educational experience in and out of the classroom, and that includes within athletics. Given the current realities of conference requirements and funding needs, there was no option for us
to make the significant financial investment necessary to provide our football players with a high-quality experience and an opportunity to be competitive.

When did UMN Crookston make the decision to discontinue football?
The NSIC initiated a strategic planning process about 18 months ago and that process included the possibility of changing its bylaws related to sports sponsorship and the requirement for football. There were also several other changes under consideration. During the past 18 months, our first priority was to explore every possible option for retaining and strengthening the Golden Eagle football program, and that process continued up through the end of the football season. It also gave us time to prepare for multiple type of changes including the possibility of discontinuing football. It was not until after Thanksgiving that we became aware of the potential bylaw change, and it was at that time we made the final decision.

Will UMN Crookston drop other sports?
There are no plans to drop any other sport. Further, the new NSIC bylaw now requires 11 sponsored sports, and UMN currently offers 11 sponsored sports. Not only will we not drop any of our current sports, this programmatic change will allow us to invest more into our current athletic teams to strengthen competitiveness and the quality of the student-athlete experience.

As our university adjusts to life without football, I am confident new traditions will emerge. Thanks to all of you who came to games and showed your spirit and commitment to our student athletes.

As many of you know the longtime, loyal and hardworking Tollefson Team has chosen to retire at the end of the year. I am sure you will want to join me in wishing Terry and Elizabeth all the best!

I wish you a Happy Holidays with your special people. Be safe and enjoy the time together.

Best,
Chancellor Mary

*Enjoy this holiday greeting created by Maggie Mills - Social Media Relations Manager in University and Alumni Relations*
Students at the University of Minnesota Crookston have been using laptops for 26 years, an initiative that started in 1993. In the years that followed, more than 100 colleges and universities visited campus to learn about the innovation.

---

**Campus Announcements**

**From the Chancellor's Office**

The Chancellor has made available her calendar to help keep you updated on her work schedule and possible availability: [https://z.umn.edu/5609](https://z.umn.edu/5609)

**From the Writing Center**

The 2019 issue of *Inspired* is here! *Inspired* is UMN Crookston's creative writing and art journal, and we're excited to release our 7th issue! Please stop by our release party on Tuesday afternoon from 3:30 p.m. - 4:30 p.m. in the Prairie Room to congratulate our contributors and view this year's journal.
Can't make it to the release? Copies of the journal will also be available for perusal in the library and writing center. If you're interested in contributing to the 2020 issue, keep an eye on the Campus Weekly at the beginning of next semester!

From Information Technology

As we use our smartphones more and more for everything we do, so do cyber attackers. The December 2019 edition of the “OUCH!” newsletter discusses how texting and messaging apps such as WhatsApp, Slack or Skype (to name a few) have become the new vector for cyber attacks. Learn the most common clues for detecting such attacks and how to protect yourself from them.

Farewell

- **Allison Haas** - Writing Center Coordinator

---

**Highlights**

Nomination

Please consider nominating someone for The President's Award for Outstanding Service was established in 1997 to recognize faculty and staff who have gone well beyond their regular duties and provided exceptional service to the University. Up to 12 active or retired faculty or staff are honored each spring with this award. The deadline for nominations is March 13, 2020.

A complete description of the award and nomination requirements can be found on the President's Award for Outstanding Service webpage. Our previous award winners have been:
Sue Jacobs, Horticulture Instructor 2012
Jerry Rude, Building & Grounds 2011
Dan. Svedarsky, Faculty 2010
Deb Zak, Extension 2002
Tom Feiro, Environmental Safety 2000
Phil Baird, Faculty 1999

Events

See What’s Playing
See what’s playing this week at the Crookston movie theatre: https://www.moorefamilytheatres.com/location/9739/Grand-Theatre-Crookston-Showtimes

* Tuesday, December 17
More dates through April 14, 2020

124 E 2nd St. Crookston, MN 56716

Inspired Release Party
The Writing Center is excited to announce the release of the 7th issue of Inspired, UMC's creative writing and art journal! All are welcome to stop by this event to view this year's journal, congratulate the contributors, and celebrate the artistic endeavors of the UMC community.

* Tuesday, December 17 at 3:30am to 4:30am

Prairie Room
Sargeant Student Center, 2900 University Ave, Crookston, MN 56716
The holiday season is a time for family, friends, food...and stress. While many people enjoy celebrating with loved ones, the pressures of holiday gift-buying, travel, and overindulgence can take their toll. Join us for a session with Earl E. Bakken Center for Spirituality & Healing Director Dr. Mary Jo Kreitzer to learn about strategies to prevent and cope with holiday stress. Learn about ways to support your wellbeing during the holidays and beyond.

Please Register prior to Webinar start time (12:30pm-1:00pm) using the link Join us.

Faculty Staff Holiday Party/White Elephant Gift Exchange

James Pogatshnik will serve as emcee for this year's holiday party and white elephant gift exchange. Enjoy lunch, a brief program, and celebrate the end of the semester!

- Friday, December 20 at 11:30am to 1:30pm
- Bede Ballroom
  Sargeant Student Center, 2900 University Ave. Crookston, MN 56716

Looking Ahead

- Faculty Staff Party
  - December 20
- Spring Semester Begins
  - January 13