Leadership Letter

From the Chancellor

I was having lunch with a group of faculty, students and staff on Friday and was telling a story about ice fishing. Someone entered the conversation late and misheard what was being said. We had a brief conversation about how communications can break down.

We’ve all probably misspoken in our lives a time or two (especially when telling fish stories), or failed to hear what the other person was saying.

Communication is a two-way process whether written or spoken. But as we know, through the process, the information can become changed, someone spins their version on what was said, etc. Perhaps you remember the game “telephone,” where a message is started — but by the time it gets through a series of people it can come out completely different from what was originally said.

It is incumbent all of us to ensure effective communication is happening. If you hear something that sounds a little off or strange, not sure what was meant by it, etc. don’t be afraid to ask for clarification or go back to the source.

Just to review a few basics of communications

- Be straightforward.
- Be engaged both as a speaker and listener.
- Pay attention to your manners. Listen to understand instead of listening to react.
Use “I,” in your statements. When you speak this way, you’re leaving room for others to have an opinion as well.

- Be positive.
- Show understanding.
- Send a clear message.

https://exploringyourmind.com

Some of you know that I like triads. Remember these three Cs of communication.
Clear, concise and concrete

Have a great week.

Access and helping our students be successful once they are here is one of our strong points of pride.

Campus Announcements

From the Student Success Center

"Don't Cancel Class"

Planning to head to a conference? Out of town for a family event? If you’re expecting to miss one or more of your classes this semester, consider a Don't Cancel Class workshop! The Student Success Center is rolling out a new initiative... We'll now be offering a variety of workshops to engage your students while you are away. Our topics (listed on our [website](https://exploringyourmind.com)) range from career preparation to diversity to learning strategies, and we would be happy to tailor them to the needs of your class!

Some workshops can be shortened and combined to cover a single class period or can be presented as a supplement to a regular class. To request a workshop, fill out [this form](https://exploringyourmind.com).
have any questions!

**GRE Study Groups**

Do you have a student who is planning to take the GRE? Encourage them to sign up for a GRE study group this semester! Led by Kelsey Torgerson and Denise Greene, these study sessions will teach students what to expect from the test, how to find and use GRE resources, and ways to keep yourself accountable. We'll cover techniques and strategies to conquer all three sections - quantitative reasoning, verbal reasoning, and analytical writing. We will meet for an hour every other week, and we hope to begin at the beginning of February. If interested, students should fill out this [interest form](#) by Friday, January 31st. If they have any questions, they can contact Kelsey Torgerson!

**Tutoring**

Now is a great time to encourage your students and advisees to sign-up for a tutor! Tutoring will start this week and next and is available to both on campus and online students. The earlier a student requests a tutor, the more effective it can be. They can request a tutor using this [link](#). Faculty, we ask that you consider putting this link into your Canvas sites and announcing it in class. If it would be helpful, feel free to walk a student over to us in the Student Success Center. If you have any questions, please contact Josh Parrill or email umctutor@crk.umn.edu.

**Writing Center**

Feeling unsure about your next writing project? The Writing Center is available to all students, faculty, and staff who want to discuss their writing. We provide constructive feedback to writers at all stages of the writing process. Our services are free. Note our new hours for this semester: Monday - Friday from 9 a.m. - 5 p.m. Click on the [link](#) to make an appointment. If you have any questions, please email umcwrite@crk.umn.edu.

**From Student Affairs & Campus Ministry**

**Food Pantry Available on Campus**

If you cannot afford to buy nutritious food--this free pantry is for you. During Semester break, Student Affairs in partnership with Cooperative Campus Ministry, established a Food Pantry on campus. The Pantry is located in the Owen 170 Entrance and is open Monday-Friday from 8 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. In addition to non-perishable food items there are...
development as is a mechanism for how to contribute to the Pantry. The Pantry is operated using donated funds and items so please stay tuned on how you can donate if able. If you would like to become involved or if you have food insecurity needs, please contact Coordinator for Cooperative Ministry Trey Everett at evere102@crk.umn.edu or one of the Eagles 4 Eagles Peer Educators.

From Financial Aid

Financial aid refunds for Spring 2020 started being processed on Thursday January 16th.

Innovation & Economic Prosperity (IEP) Update

The University of Minnesota Crookston has embarking on an 18 month, self-study evaluating the economic engagement of what we do and will help us develop a framework/road map for future work. This effort is in support of our strategic goal of Golden Eagle Pride and enhanced outreach and engagement.

This is in guidance with the Association of Public Land Grant Universities (APLU), which helps higher education institutions elevate, and advance their campus enterprise supporting economic and community development.

UMN Crookston is joining more than 60 institutions that have earned this distinguished recognition. The designation, upon self-study completion, recognizes institutions that have demonstrated a meaningful, ongoing and substantial commitment to economic and community development, growth, and economic opportunity. With financial support from the Twin Cities Office of Public Engagement, UMN Crookston, is seeking IEP designation joining the Twin Cities and Duluth campuses. The foci of the program is:

- Talent and workforce development
- Innovation, entrepreneurship and technology-based economic development
- Place development through public service, outreach, extension, and community engagement

The initial planning team includes Outreach & Engagement, Technology Services, Sponsored Project Administration, and Institutional Effectiveness. They are in the beginning stages of preparing a rigorous self-study of the campus’ economic engagement
enterprise. The team will be expanded, as needed, to include marketing and communications, athletics as well as representatives from selected departments on campus and appropriate administrative units such as alumni, academic affairs and philanthropic development.

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CARE Corner: Early Intervention in the Classrooms

As we work together as a campus community to ensure that we are retaining our students, it is important to know how beneficial early intervention is for their success. In an effort to identify students who may need some extra support, there is a team of staff members who meet on a biweekly basis. The Campus Assessment, Referral, and Evaluation (CARE) Team consists of Lamesha Brown, Director of Student Success and Academic Advising; Steven Krouse, Head Athletic Trainer; Tim Menard, Director of Counseling Services; Gail Myers, Director of the Disability Resource Center; Lisa Samuelson, Interim Associate Vice Chancellor of Student Affairs; and Gary Willhite, Director of Residential Life and Security Services. The CARE Team discusses strategies on how to best provide wrap-around support for our students.

If there is a student that you are concerned about, inform Lamesha and she will reach out to the student to conduct a student success check-in. Examples of reasons that you would inform Lamesha about a student might include any of the following:

- A student has not been in your class for two weeks
- A student has received Ds and Fs on the first few assignments or first exam
- A student has not turned in several assignments

While this referral process may be new for many of you, the purpose of this is to intervene as early as possible. If a student shares sensitive information about barriers to their education, please refer them directly to either Tim Menard or Gail Myers. You can contact Lamesha at brownlc@crk.umn.edu or 218-281-8555.

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Faculty/Staff Updates
Faculty Update

Dr. Rutherford Card. Johnson was recently awarded a Graduate Certificate in Social Justice by the Harvard University Extension School. The graduate course of studies involves elements of philosophy and ethics, economics and sociology, environmental law and policy, religion, and politics as they relate to historical and current issues of social justice in the world. His work related to the certificate resulted in real-world project reports submitted as expert statements to the United Nations and other government entities. He was also named to the Honourary Gabalie Chair of the Real Academia e Instituto de Estudios Occitanos in Argentina, an historical and academic institution preserving the latin heritage of the Occitan people in France, Spain, and the Americas. The few honourary chair positions (“sedes” in Spanish) are each named for one of the historic areas in Occitania.

Events

Women’s Basketball vs University of Mary - Beach Night

University of Minnesota Crookston Women’s Basketball vs University of Mary - Beach Night

📍 Friday, January 24 at 5:30pm to 7:30pm
📍 Crookston, Minn.

Men’s Basketball vs University of Mary - Beach Night

University of Minnesota Crookston Men’s Basketball vs University of Mary - Beach Night

📍 Friday, January 24 at 7:30pm to 9:30pm
📍 Crookston, Minn.
Contests in agronomy, animal science, horticulture, agricultural business, and natural resources highlight Ag Arama weekend. They serve as an opportunity for our students to showcase their knowledge and skills and have a chance to interact with alumni and faculty members.

📍 Saturday, January 25
📍 UTOC Arena
  University Teaching & Outreach Center (UTOC), 2900 University Ave, Crookston, MN 56716

Snow Sculpting

Come to the University of Minnesota Crookston, Saturday, January 25 at 10am and join Trey Everett and Gary Stegman in sculpting a snow sculpture starting. Students, Faculty, Staff as well as the entire Crookston Community are welcome to assist. Dress appropriately. Sculpting begins at 10am near Kiehle Building.

While the sculpture will take much of the day UMN Crookston will host a reveal party Friday, January 31 from 4pm to 5:30pm. Snacks, coca-cola beverages and free game passes for the Men and Women's Golden Eagle Basketball games will be available.

The North Dakota Klezmer Ensemble will perform in Kiehle Rotunda on Friday, January 31 to kick off the Reveal Party event. We would like to encourage students, faculty and staff along with Community members to assist in the sculpting.

📍 Saturday, January 25 at 10:00am
More dates through January 31, 2020
📍 Kiehle - Lot G Parking

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**Looking Ahead**

- Artist Talk Featuring Megan Beck - Wednesday, January 29
- Guest Speaker: Washington Post Reporter, Christopher Ingraham - Thursday, February 6, 2020
- Farm to Table Dinner - Thursday, August 13, 2020
  - $100 general public
  - $75 UMN Crookston faculty, staff, and students