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Crookston Campus E-Update

a bi-weekly internal administrative news digest
aim higher, reach further and dream bigger dreams

January 29, 2007

Welcome to the *Crookston Campus E-Update*, where we highlight administrative activities and programs on campus. On a bi-weekly basis, we will have news from the Chancellor along with some featured events and activities. We'll also talk about what's happening in Academic Affairs, Student Affairs and Enrollment Management, Finance and University Services, Human Resources, University Relations, Development & Alumni Relations and Athletics, on a rotating basis. If you have suggestions or ideas for the *E-Update*, please let us know (urumc@umn.edu).

From the Chancellor

The fourth week of the semester is upon us and already we've had a wide variety of presentations, activities and educational experiences to choose from. Looking ahead, we have a few challenges to address as well as exciting partnerships to celebrate and leverage. Here are some highlights.

Last week, **Governor Pawlenty presented his budget for the 2008-2009 biennium**. His recommendations included \$90.4 million of the University's \$182.3 million biennial request. The governor's budget fully funds a number of key research areas important to the state, including science, engineering, agriculture, the environment, renewable energy, health workforce and clinical sciences. Items not funded include \$26.4 million to improve education and \$67 million to ensure the University continues to attract and retain talented faculty and staff.

It will take a concerted effort by everyone to advocate for the University's budget request. More details, including information on how you can help, are online at www1.umn.edu/urelate/govrel.

Recently, I received official confirmation that the **Crookston proposal for an Area Health Education Center (AHEC) has been approved**. This is a joint proposal by the University of Minnesota, Crookston and Riverview Health. The purpose of an AHEC is to encourage more individuals to choose health care as their career. Access to health care is critical to the quality of life in northwestern Minnesota. This is a way the University of Minnesota, Crookston, working with a broad range of partners, can add value to this region of the state. More information about this partnership is on our Web site at www.UMCrookston.edu.

Chuck

– Charles H. Casey, Chancellor
University of Minnesota, Crookston

Featured Events & Activities

Fifth Annual Winter Job & Internship Fair, February 7 – Nearly 40 companies will be on hand to talk with prospective employees and interns from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. in Bede Ballroom at the Student Center. For a listing of exhibitors, visit <http://www.umcrookston.edu/ccs/CAREER/2007JobInternshipFair.htm>.

Crookston Area Special Olympics Basketball Fundraiser, February 8 – Athletics will host the benefit games at 5:30 p.m. in Lysaker Gymnasium. Cheer on the Special Olympics Basketball team in two 15-minute games as they take on students and student-athletes and Crookston community and faculty/staff members.

Horse Owner Education Program, February 17 – The day will feature unbiased, research-based information as well as knowledgeable speakers specifically tailored for horse owners in northern Minnesota. The event is scheduled from 10 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. in the University Teaching and Outreach Center (UTOC). For more details, visit www.extension.umn.edu/horse.

We look forward to seeing you here. For more details or to discover what's happening this week, visit UMC Today at www.UMCrookston.edu/umcnews or review our news page at www.UMCrookston.edu/umcnews/stories.

Around Campus

Academic Affairs – A faculty committee is examining the possibility of creating an Honors College to recognize outstanding students. They are working on a proposal for this year's compact. The five academic departments are also working on a joint compact proposal for the establishment of a Center for Sustainability. Each department has expertise to add to such a center. The search for an international program director will continue after a review of the position description.

Student Affairs and Enrollment Management – Preliminary online enrollment numbers indicate that our credit hours are up 27 percent over last spring. We have 18 new online degree-seeking students enrolled spring term. An additional Campus Preview date will be held on February 17, which is also Little Siblings weekend.

Finance & University Services – Work on a proposal to bring a wellness center to campus continues and information has been sent to U of M administration for review and next steps. The budgeting process is in full swing on campus as we are working under a shortened time frame this year. The budget and compact will be presented to U of M administrators on March 7.

Development & Alumni Relations – Staff and faculty travel to Florida Atlantic University this week to meet with legendary collegiate and professional coach Howard Schnellenberger and his colleague Tom DeMuth. Successful and proven fundraisers, they were instrumental in developing a strategic plan and raising the majority of funds to build Papa John's Stadium at the University of Louisville.

University Relations – Interviews and campus visits for the e-communications manager position are scheduled to wrap up this week. We continue to work closely with Admissions and other units on an integrated communications and marketing plan to enhance recruitment efforts.

Athletics – Coaches are busy recruiting, and we have a lot of good local talent visiting campus – along with students from throughout the state and nation. The football signing date is February 7. In NSIC news, the conference has set up site visits for the four schools that have submitted applications to join.

If you have any questions regarding the information in this news update, please send them to urumc@umn.edu.