



UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA  
CROOKSTON

# CAMPUS WEEKLY UPDATE

#IAMCROOKSTON

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## LEADERSHIP LETTER

### From the Chancellor

The groundhog warned us it would be six more weeks of winter. What he did not warn us about is it would be six more weeks of a harsh and brutal winter. At least we are tough resilient people here and will get through this.

I do have to admit though, last week I missed a few of the snowstorms. Every year the Development and Alumni Relations team holds two significant social events and focuses on donor relationship building in the Arizona region. Many of our alums and friends either winter in Arizona or have permanently located to the warmer climate. This past Saturday, we hosted dozens of alumni from all three eras at an afternoon social in Gilbert, Ariz., and Friday, we had more than 85 alums of the Northwest School of Agriculture join us for a luncheon, with an update on campus activities and a chance to see old friends. Throughout the week, we had smaller one-on-one conversations with previous donors or individuals who have shown an affinity to the work we do in educating the next generation.

While some people have financial resources to share (highlights provided below) others share their gift of relationships or mentoring and employment opportunities with our students. Successful donor relationships work to develop trust, a kindred goal and then build up their belief and confidence in us that we can deliver. It takes a team of all of us working together to instill the confidence (and results) of our generous alumni and friends.

The past year has indeed been a very good year for the Development team of Brandy Chaffee, Kevin Thompson, Rose Ulseth, Angelika Huglen with assistance from Michelle Christopherson, Jonathon Holland and Stephanie Helgeson who focus primarily on student pathways, athletics and Teambackers. Here are a few highlights of some of the successes this past few months, and excitedly, we're not done yet.

- The UMN Crookston campus is achieving its largest year of fundraising in campus history, currently compiling more than \$2.1 million in gifts.
- Secured a gift to hire a full time person who will focus on student pathway programs in the local schools to excite students about pursuing careers in the sciences while acquainting them with UMN Crookston's academic programs.
- More than 75% of all gifts raised so far this fiscal year are supporting student scholarships.
- Secured a substantial five-year commitment from a local organization to support scholarships for our Golden Eagle Softball team.
- Secured more than \$45k in regional corporate partnerships with services, financial and in kind efforts for the UMN Crookston Golden Eagle Athletics.
- Secured a gift to build a much needed lean-to for our Equine program.

We thank our generous friends for their gifts.

Continue to take COVID precautions and be well.

Chancellor Mary

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# CAMPUS UPDATES

## Computer Help Desk

Starting Feb. 22, Google is introducing a new user interface for Gmail. The main feature of the interface is the addition of a navigation bar that allows you to move between applications like Google Chat and Meet without switching tabs or opening a new window. You can opt-in to use the new interface until it becomes the default for everyone in summer 2022.

[Learn more about the Gmail interface changes and how to opt-in.](#)

You can set your daily working location in Google Calendar, at your discretion. You will see a pop-up notification with the option to set up your daily working location in Google Calendar. If you do not want to use this feature, please select "Not now." If you wish to set up your working location in the future, do so via calendar settings. [Learn more about setting your daily working location in Google calendar.](#)

## Human Resources

### Employee Appraisals

We are currently in the supervisors writing employee review phase of the employee appraisal process. If you haven't submitted your employee input to your supervisor, please make sure to do so.

As a reminder, here is our timeline for the performance evaluation period:

January 24th-February 4th: Employees Enter Comments into the Employee Input Section

February 7th- February 18th: Supervisors Write Employee Reviews

February 21st-March 18th: Supervisors Hold Performance Evaluation Meetings

## Wellbeing at the U

The [University Wellbeing Program](#) exists to provide open, flexible, customizable ways to help employees live balanced, fulfilling lives based on their own goals and needs. This year holds exciting changes that will make it easier to earn points for healthcare rate reductions, enhance wellness, and explore all eight dimensions of wellbeing. If you would like to learn more about the University Wellbeing Program, [download the program brochure](#) for highlights and contact Angie Berlinger, Health Coach- UMN Morris and Crookston at [aberling@morris.umn.edu](mailto:aberling@morris.umn.edu) or (320) 589-6486.



## Agriculture and Natural Resources

Winter Festival, February 24, 4-7, Nature Nook

Snow sculpting, fire pit, snow shoeing, smores, and sledding.

**Student Engagement Leadership Forum on Sustainability, February 25 and 26** Justice, community & sustainability, register at [z.umn.edu/SELF sustain2022](https://z.umn.edu/SELF sustain2022) At the heart of every environmental issue is a social issue. For more information, check out the Crookston Students for Sustainable Development (CSSD) or the [events calendar](#).

**Fidelity Webinar: Put the Power of NetBenefits to Work for You** 200 Wellbeing points February 22nd, 9:00 am - 9:30 am <https://digital.fidelity.com/prgw/digital/wos/>

## OHR Sponsored Healthy Foods Healthy Lives Cooking Class

[Cooking for Heart Health](#), Fats, Sodium and Flavor, 250 Wellbeing points, February 22nd, 5 - 6:15 pm

CSH Free Wellbeing Series: [Turning the Tide: Neuroscience, Spirituality and My Path Toward](#)

[Emotional Health](#), 200 Wellbeing points, February 24th, 12:00 - 1:30 Fidelity Webinar: [How to Plan for the](#)

[Income You'll Need in Retirement](#), 200 Wellbeing points, February 25, 12 - 12:45 For more information, Zoom log on information and upcoming events, click [here](#).

**LSS Webinars, through March 7 @ 11:30**

Gain financial knowledge by attending [virtual classes](#) offered by LSS Financial, the official financial counseling provider to University employees. Each session earns 200 Wellbeing Points.  
Foundations of Financial Wellbeing, Mondays, through March 7, 11:30-12:30

**UMN Crookston Commencement, Saturday, May 7**

Seniors if you plan to finish your degree requirements during Spring, Summer, or Fall 2022, [apply for graduation](#). Contact the Registrar's Office at [umreg@umn.edu](mailto:umreg@umn.edu), if you need assistance. Campus plans are to have an in-person graduation ceremony on Saturday, May 7. Details are still being figured out as to if there will be 1 or 2 ceremonies and if there will be a limit on the number of guests allowed, etc. Watch your email for more information mid-March.

## HIGHLIGHTS

**Work ethic guides path for UMN Crookston student Morris in the classroom and on the baseball field.**

When you ponder on the idea of sports in New Zealand, immediately the focus goes to rugby. The New Zealand National Team has been a power in the world of rugby for ages. One sport that doesn't always come up is baseball, and it was no different in the family of [University of Minnesota Crookston senior Brad Morris, a native of Auckland, New Zealand](#). Sports were an integral part of the foundation of his family. He has three cousins that play for the New Zealand National Rugby Union squad. Morris had another relative on his dad's side who competed in shot put in the Olympics. Athletics have always been important, but it has always focused on the work ethic instilled in his family.