



From the Vice Chancellor



Dear friends,

As this will be my last Campus Update Leadership Letter, it feels like the final words for the latest chapter in the book of my life. In thinking of a title for this chapter, I am inclined to draw on words that Kevin Thompson has so often articulated when describing UMN Crookston: “Welcome Home.” Kevin is not the only member of our community who uses this phrase, but there is something special about the way he says it that captures a deeper meaning for the words. Those of you who know him well, know what I mean. Those of you who do not should offer to buy him a cup of coffee!

I arrived four years ago with many of the first-year students who will soon graduate and move on to write new chapters in the books of their lives. I anticipate they will preview titles for their UMN Crookston book chapters on mortarboards, through commencement day social media posts, and in parting words with close friends. Many of our students have felt at home since the day they first visited. Indeed, we know the feeling of home becomes a deciding factor for many prospective students when they visit campus. For other students, home did not come as easily. Perhaps it was something they discovered or created, whether on campus or through discussion boards, group assignments, and study sessions with their online peers. Truth be told, some of our graduates will have relied more on an inner drive to succeed than the transformational experience of home. While resilience stories of students who graduate without benefit from home can inspire, most students who do not have a sense of belonging ultimately transfer or drop out of college.

For me, home is more about an intersection of people and place. What I have cherished most in my Crookston home have been the people committed to bringing home and belonging to those students who might not otherwise find it in this place. Let me share three examples.

- One of these individuals is Harouna Maiga, recipient of a 2021-22 Horace T. Morse - University of Minnesota Alumni Association Award for Outstanding Contributions to Undergraduate Education. I recall one of my first meals at Drafts Sports Bar where Harouna sat next to my wife and explained how he had only expected to stay here for a couple of years, but then was surprised by how home found him and his family. Those words helped Joy to find a home in the north after 50 years in Southern California. I know it is also a part of what makes his teaching so special.
- Another is Kelsey Torgerson, recipient of a 2022 UMN President’s Award for Outstanding Service. She, along with Josh Parrill (2021 recipient of this award) and the rest of the Student Success Center staff have transformed the culture of their office.

When consultants from Cambridge Hill Partners visited our campus to assess our diversity, equity, and belonging work, they identified the SSC as a model not only for UMN Crookston but also for the UMN System because of their shift away from fixing problems to centering equity and helping students to capitalize on diverse ways of knowing and being in order to succeed.

· Thirdly, there is Megan Bell, Ph.D. who was notified last week that she had earned tenure and advancement in rank to associate professor. When reviewing her portfolio this spring, I was impressed with how systematic she is in using evidence-based teaching practices, a variety of educational technologies, and culturally responsive instructional methods to ensure that every student in each of her classes is successful. In other words, she brings home to the classroom for all of her students.

While not an exhaustive list of recent award recipients on our campus, I am proud to lift these individuals up in my final leadership letter because their work exemplifies the spirit of bringing "welcome home" to all students. Indeed, they are taking the additional step of redefining home for all so that it is more actively and authentically just, equitable, and inclusive.

Lastly, I am excited to "welcome home" Rosemary Johnsen, Ph.D. who will begin on July 1 as the next Division Head for Business, Arts, and Education. The comprehensive formal announcement will go out later this afternoon. As noted by one of her references, Johnsen is an accomplished faculty member and scholar, and she leads in a way that is both faculty- and student-focused. Others described her as highly caring and relational, an excellent communicator, equitable and fair, highly organized, and a leader who knows how to put strategy to practice. I wish to thank the members of the search committee for their service and also Mark Huglen, Ph.D. for his leadership as acting division head during the 2021-2022 academic year.

Best wishes to all for your finals week, and as we prepare for our end of the school year farewells, remember that farewell is merely a precursor to future opportunities to say "welcome home."

Sincerely,
John

CAMPUS UPDATES

Financial Aid

The deadline to submit a request for workstudy funded positions will be **Friday May 6, 2022**. Complete [this form](#) in full with detailed job descriptions and duties/responsibilities.

Global Programs and International Student Services

A reminder from the GPS Alliance that registration of international travel is required pursuant to per [university policy](#) for all faculty and staff. The University of Minnesota's [International Travel Registry](#) is an important tool in maintaining health and safety standards for faculty and staff traveling abroad. By registering international travel, the University is better-informed and positioned to help travelers in the event of an emergency abroad. The GPS Alliance will be contacting staff and faculty who have submitted international travel-related reimbursements for future travel (but who have not yet registered) to remind them of their obligation to register before their trip. They will also send reminders to non-compliant travelers after their travel. If you have any questions, please contact Sok Leng Tan at tans@crk.umn.edu

Wellbeing at the U

The University Wellbeing Program has a variety of upcoming programs for you to participate in. Learn more about these opportunities through the link provided! Also, within the Virgin Pulse portal you can review the Events Calendar under the "Social" tab for upcoming wellbeing programs and classes. Access your 2021-22 University Wellbeing Program account at: <https://humanresources.umn.edu/wellbeingprogram>

Human Resources

Thank you to those of you who were able to attend the workshop focused on managing burnout, self-care, and communication during our Professional Development day on April 18th, 2022. If you were unable to attend, here is a link to the recording- <http://www.kaltura.com/tiny/0yaa6>

Health Services

Serenity Room, Kiehle Hall, room 216, will be open 9 to 9, Monday through Friday

This room is intended to provide a calm and tranquil place that welcomes all. A place where students, faculty, and staff can come for meditation, prayer, or simply to be quiet; a place where small groups can connect and *gather* together, and a place that will bring about a spirit of reverence, peace and harmony to oneself. Amenities include: guest / sign-in Book, meditation cushions, yoga mats, reading lounge chairs, coloring pages and colored pencils, writing paper and pens, printed meditation techniques, soothing indoor water fountain, CD player with meditation music. For more information contact Nan Widseth, Health Services Director, widse024@crk.umn.edu

Academic

Danielle Johannesen, Associate Professor of Composition and Writing, has published a book chapter in the scholarly anthology *The Scientist in Popular Culture: Playing God and Working Wonders*, edited by Rebecca Janicker and published by Lexington Books (2022). Johannesen's chapter is titled "A Scientific Method to Muppet Madness: The Enduring Significance of Innovation at Muppet Labs."

Bianca Turman, a multi-institutional student at the University of Minnesota, recently presented her work at the prestigious Posters on the Hill virtual conference sponsored by the Council for Undergraduate Research. Turman's project is titled "An Analysis of International Humanitarian Law on a Scorched Earth Policy." Turman's faculty advisor is Dr. Danielle Johannesen. Turman and Johannesen participated in the event April 25-27. Turman presented her work at the conference event and Turman and Johannesen also met with representatives from the offices of Minnesota's Congressional leaders.



Library Services

Celebrate Krista Proulx's retirement, Thursday, May 12 from 2-4 on the second floor of the Library.

UMN Crookston Band

Last week the students in the UMN Crookston Band met virtually with Tyler Mazone, the composer of *Closure*, one of the pieces we will be playing at the concert tonight. Mr. Mazone is a

deaf composer and one of the meaningful things he spoke with the band about was accessibility through music. He spoke about one way of accomplishing this being through arranging music for flexible instrumentation, or any collection of instruments of an appropriate range, like his flexible instrumentation version of his original work *Closure* that will be performed tonight. Mr. Mazone will be joining us virtually again for the concert tonight and will be introducing his piece personally to our in person and virtual audiences.

UMC Bookstore Textbook Buyback

Get paid for your textbooks. Sell your textbooks to the U of M Bookstore in-store or online. **May 2-6 9 a.m. - 4 p.m.**

U of M Master of Nursing - Information Session

MASTER OF NURSING INFORMATION SESSIONS EARLY DECISION OPTION! May 4: 12-1 p.m.

The University of Minnesota Master of Nursing program is an excellent option which allows students to complete their undergraduate degree in any area before starting the program.

TO REGISTER: <https://z.umn.edu/mninfosession>

Let's Talk: Drop In Consultation

Let's Talk is a time for students to **informally drop-in and briefly consult** with our staff at Counseling Services. Speak with a professional counselor who can provide confidential support, help explore solutions, and share information about resources.

Let's Talk is offered virtually and in person on Mondays and Thursdays from 2-4 p.m. during the semester.

Let's Talk may help if you are:

- Interested in gaining perspective on a concern.
- Wanting to talk about a problem or share what's troubling you.
- Curious about counseling but are not sure if it's for you.
- Looking for ideas and advice on next steps.
- Concerned about a friend and want some guidance.

Let's Talk is not counseling, though our Let's Talk team may suggest counseling as one of the resources available as we discuss next steps.

No appointment is necessary, so you can drop in during the scheduled times. Let's Talk visits typically last 10-20 minutes.

If you are currently experiencing a mental health crisis or are in need of urgent support, contact the **24/7 UMN Phone Counseling and Crisis Line by calling **218.281.TALK (8255)** or text **"UMN"** to **61222**.**

Virtual Let's Talk

Select the link of the provider you wish to consult with. If one is busy, feel free to join the other's room. *You will be required to authenticate with your UMN zoom account to join and be placed into a waiting room for your privacy.*

Let's Talk with Christen Schoenborn

z.umn.edu/zoomChristenS

Meeting ID: 712 187 3052

Passcode: umc2022

Let's Talk with Jodi Ramberg

z.umn.edu/zoomJodiR

Meeting ID: 548 109 0311

Passcode: umc2022

Annual Bedding Plant Sale

Stop by the Production Greenhouse for the 48th Annual Bedding Plant Sale. There is a great selection of flowering annuals, vegetables, strawberries, and herbs. All are welcome! Cash or check only.

Friday, May 6 at 9 a.m.-5 p.m.

Commencement

Celebrate the academic achievements of this year's graduating class by attending the University of Minnesota Crookston Commencement ceremony on campus or watch it live via the web! US Secretary of Agriculture Tom Vilsack will be giving the keynote address. **Commencement starts at 10 a.m. Saturday, May 7.** Attend in-person or watch online at <https://crk.umn.edu/umc-commencement/commencement-2022>

Baseball

The Golden Eagle baseball team is set to conclude the 2022 season at home this week. UMN Crookston is scheduled to play Northern State University **Wednesday, May 4 at 1 and 3 p.m.** They will conclude the season **Friday, May 6 and Saturday, May 7 versus the University of Mary. Game times are Friday 1:30 and 3:30, and Saturday at 12 p.m.** Stay tuned to goldeneaglesports.com for any updates related to weather or field conditions.

Career Champion Challenge

Who can believe that we are moving into the final weeks of the semester. It is time to start thinking about the upcoming opportunities that you have available! We have a program made just for you!

Are YOU ready to take on the Career Champion Challenge? A self-paced career challenge means less obstacles in your way!

All are Welcome! Our office helps all students & alums from any major with their journey toward future careers

Learn more and sign up: z.umn.edu/CareerChampion

What meets winners at the finish line?

- Prizes! Prizes! More prizes!
- Swag
- A seat at the Champions Luncheon
- High quality career prep
- Invaluable career connections
- And more!



Join



CAREER CHAMPION CHALLENGE

Begins April 25, 2022 | WIN PRIZES!

Start the challenge: z.umn.edu/CareerChampion

TWO AVENUES TO BECOME A CAREER CHAMPION

- 1** **Complete the Career Explorer Series:**
The Career Explorer Series provides you with a structured and personalized setting to explore your interests and careers with a Career Consultant. Limited opportunities available.
- 2** **Complete an Independent Plan for Career and Personal Exploration:**
Your best bet for completing the Career Challenge quickly. Asynchronous completion of the Career Challenge in Canvas will have you explore many aspects of who you are and identify the strategies that will bring you the life that you want! Strategic visioning will give you a GPS for everything that follows.

MORE DETAILS

Challenge Accepted- All Champions Receive

- Champions Luncheon
 - VIP access to employers
- Career Fair Swag
- High Quality Career Preparation

Early Bird Bonuses:

- First 10 completed = \$50 gift card
- Complete by July 1st = \$20 gift card
- Complete by Sept 1st = \$10 gift card

CAREER & INTERNSHIP FAIR

Thursday, September 15, 2022

VIP CHAMPIONS LUNCHEON



[CLICK FOR ALL EVENTS](#)

HIGHLIGHTS



Tom Vilsack, United States Secretary of Agriculture will address the University of Minnesota Crookston class of 2022 along with family and friends at the [UMN Crookston commencement exercises](#) at 10 a.m. on Saturday, May 7, 2022.

Thomas J. Vilsack was confirmed as the 32nd United States Secretary of Agriculture on Feb. 23, 2021 by the U.S. Senate. He was nominated by President Joe Biden to return to a role where he served for eight years under President Barack Obama. He was previously the U.S. Secretary of Agriculture 2009 to 2017 and Governor of Iowa from 1999 to 2007.

“It is indeed an honor that the United States Secretary of Agriculture will be addressing the University of Minnesota Crookston’s 2022 graduating class. The Red River Valley has a long and proud history of feeding the world. Secretary of Agriculture Vilsack has been a strong proponent of supporting rural economic development through investments in agricultural businesses and communities, growing local food infrastructure,” said UMN Crookston Chancellor, Mary Holz-Clause. Holz-Clause added, Vilsack was governor of Iowa while I lived there, among his signature accomplishments was the development of the Grow Iowa Values Fund, which stimulated economic development for the state.

“The fact that the U.S. Secretary of Agriculture agreed to serve as our commencement speaker reflects the growing profile of the University of Minnesota Crookston. We are a regional leader in agriculture, and rural economic development,” said John L. Hoffman, vice chancellor for academic and student affairs. “Mr. Vilsack is known for building bipartisan coalitions to address critical issues including food insecurity, conservation and sustainability, and civil rights in the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA). As our graduates begin their careers of influence at work and in their communities, I have no doubt they will find strength and inspiration from Mr. Vilsack,” Hoffman said.

For more information visit [here](#)