



UMN Crookston alumni Mark Olsonawski, pictured third from the left, is with his family and team at the annual Mark Olsonawski Scholarship Golf Tournament held last Thursday at Two River Golf Course.

## LEADERSHIP LETTER

### Leadership Letter

#### From the Chancellor

I hope you have had some time to enjoy our summer weather. If you are on campus or can come back and be on campus Thursday, June 23 at 11:30, join us for a summer picnic and a little time to catch up. Please let Chris know if you will attend and can accommodate any dietary needs you have. This will give you an opportunity to meet some of the new people who have joined us the past few months.

Speaking of new people—Jess Bengtson's first day as part of the communications team will be June 13. Jess is an alum and was most recently editor of the Crookston Times. She and Michelle will continue to team up with the other marketing and communications professionals to tell the stories of this great institution.

June 1 was the first day Tony Kern, Ph.D. assumed his new role as interim Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs. He is teaming up with Dr. Hoffman for a few weeks before John's official last day, June 20.

Chris Ehrhart will be joining us on July 11 as our new director of Diversity of Equity and Belonging. Chris moved here returning to his grandparents homeland from the south. He has most recently been at the University of North Dakota the last few years and had a long career at James Madison University. Chris is among many other new employees joining us, stop by their offices and welcome them to campus.

In July, Rosemary Johnsen, Ph.D. begins her role as the new Division Head for Business, Arts, and Education. Rosemary joins us from Governors State University, where she has served as the Associate Provost since 2018. Johnsen holds her doctorate in English Literature and has a significant record of accomplishments in faculty development and enrollment management.

Kristie Walker, Ph.D. will begin a 1-year term as Interim Division Head for Agriculture, Natural Science, and Technology.

Our Northwest School of Agriculture alums will be on campus, Friday, June 24. This is always such a special time for many of them who only get back to our beautiful campus every few years. Please be sure to welcome them back home if you run into our alums on campus.

Juneteenth (Sunday, June 19) is now a federal holiday. It is a holiday commemorating the end of slavery by marking the day enslaved people in Texas learned they were free. The move comes after growing support nationwide for observing the day of celebration and reflection. Feel free to use one of your two personal days this year for the Juneteenth celebration. Remember the [personal holidays](#) must be used by June 30, 2022.

A special thanks to Shawn Smith, who has served half-time as Interim Assistant Director of Communication this past year. Shawn will resume, full-time, his Assistant Athletic Director-Media Relations role. As many of you know Shawn is one of those tireless people like so many of you, who give so much to the University. Thanks Shawn.

Until next month. Have a great summer.

Chancellor Mary

## **Human Resources**

### **New Hires**

**Tanner Wichmann**, Video Conferencing Support Technician/End User Support, Media Services May 16  
Prior to joining the University of Minnesota Crookston, Tanner worked as a Digital Media Specialist at Ottawa University in Ottawa, Kansas. During his time as a student at Ottawa University, Tanner held various IT support roles including Technology User Service, E-sports Facility Support and Academic Technology Support. Tanner holds his Bachelors of Arts in Management Information Systems(MIS) from Ottawa University and will be receiving his MBA from Ottawa University this May.

**Monica Kustritz**, Application Processing Specialist, Student Affairs, May 23

Monica is a 2022 graduate of the University of Minnesota Crookston's Communication program. During her time as a student at UMC, Monica worked in the Department of Educational Programs and Transitions assisting with contracts, schedules, administrative tasks, and organization. Monica was also involved in several committees and served as the Executive Chair of Golden Eagle Entertainment

**Ethan Christopherson**, Admissions Counselor, Office of Admissions, May 23

Ethan received his Bachelor of Arts in Communication and Marketing from the University of Minnesota Duluth. Ethan has experience working with the University as a Communications Assistant, Student Pathways Assistant, and seasonal work with the Northwest Research & Outreach Center.

**Debra Pedraza**, Application Processing Specialist, Office of Admissions, May 24

Prior to joining the University of Minnesota Crookston, Debra spent 10+ years at the University of North Dakota in various roles in Housing, Law School, Music Dept, and the Graduate School.

**Tu Lynn Sommerfeld**, Director of the Early Childhood Development Center, HSSE, June 1

Tu Lynn rejoins the University as Director of Early Childhood Development Center after spending the 2021-2022 academic year as a 5th grade teacher at Sacred Heart School. Tu Lynn was previously the Director of ECDC from 2015-2021.

**Tammy Ann Wallace**, Executive Accounts Specialist, Business Affairs Office, June 7

Prior to joining the University of Minnesota Crookston, Tammy has administrative experience working with Benedictine Living Community and Polk County Probation Office.

**Jess Bengtson**, Communication Specialist, University Relations, June 13

Prior to joining the University of Minnesota Crookston Jess was most recently editor of the Crookston Times.

**Bryan McManus**, Business and Research Analyst, June 15

Bryan received his Bachelor of Arts(Government) from Lawrence University and his Masters of Arts(Political Science) from the University of Wisconsin. Prior to joining the University of Minnesota Crookston, Bryan has served as an Assessment and Evaluation Analyst for Saint Mary's University of Minnesota, an Actuarial Analyst for Allianz Life, and a Forecasting Analyst for Curio Brands.

**Linnea Schluessler**, RSVP Coordinator, June 20

Linnea has her Bachelor and Master of Arts from the University of North Dakota. Prior to joining the University of Minnesota Crookston, Linnea worked for the UMC Writing Center from 2008-2016. Linnea has also served as the Director of the Academic Student Success Center at NCTC.

**Rob Glarum**, Academic Advisor/ First Year Experience, June 20

Rob Glarum will be transferring from an Admissions Counselor to an Academic Advisor on June 20th.

**Cassidy Lizakowski**, Admissions Counselor, Aug 1

Cassidy is a graduate of the University of North Dakota's Business Management program. Prior to joining the University of Minnesota Crookston, Cassidy served as an Admissions Counselor for Bradley University in Peoria, IL.

**Rachel Hawn** has accepted the position of Lecturer within the UMN Crookston Business Department, leading the Manufacturing and Quality Management programs. Rachel spent 15 years working in the

global manufacturing sector with an emphasis on large scale project management, lean engineering, supply chain/logistics & ERP system implementation for both agricultural equipment manufacturing as well as medical equipment manufacturing. Rachel received her undergraduate degrees in Manufacturing Management and Quality Management from UMN Crookston in 2016 & 2017 respectively. She went on to achieve her MBA from Campbellsville University in 2021.

### **Minnesota Front Line Worker Pay Program**

Governor Walz recently enacted legislation providing bonus pay of up to \$1,500 for eligible COVID-19 frontline workers. If you are eligible, you have until July 22 to submit your [application](#).

#### **Who is eligible?**

- Employees who worked at least 120 hours in Minnesota in one or more frontline sectors between March 15, 2020, and June 30, 2021.
- Employees who were not able to telework during that time period due to the nature of their work and worked in close proximity to people outside of their household.
- Employees who meet income requirements for at least one of the 2020 or 2021 tax years.
  - For workers with direct COVID-19 patient care responsibilities, you must have had an adjusted gross income of less than \$350,000 for married taxpayers filing jointly, or less than \$175,000 for other filers.
  - For those without direct COVID-19 patient care responsibilities, the adjusted gross income limit is \$185,000 for married taxpayers filing jointly, or \$85,000 for other filers.
- Employees who did not collect more than 20 total weeks of unemployment benefits between March 15, 2020, and June 26, 2021.

Frontline sectors include:

- long-term care and home care
- health care
- emergency responders
- public health, social service, and regulatory service
- courts and corrections
- child care
- schools, including charter schools, state schools and higher education
- food service, including production, processing, preparation, sale and delivery
- retail, including sales, fulfillment, distribution and delivery
- temporary shelters and hotels
- building services, including maintenance, janitorial and security
- public transit
- ground and air transportation services
- manufacturing
- vocational rehabilitation

#### **How do I apply?**

See if you qualify and apply by July 22 at [frontlinepay.mn.gov](https://frontlinepay.mn.gov). Helpful information is available in Spanish, Hmong, and Somali.

Thank you for your service to the University, especially our frontline employees who ensured that the University continued its mission throughout the pandemic.

## WELLBEING AT THE U

### 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>

### Group Health Coaching

Group Health Coaching presentations are free, informational sessions that provide well being information on a variety of topics. Whether it be a guest presenter or one of the health coaches that is an expert on the topic, there is a topic for everyone! When you attend a group coaching presentation, fill out the registration form and you will receive 200 points every time you attend a session.

<https://boynton.umn.edu/patient-focus/faculty-and-staff/health-coaching/boynton-group-health-coaching>

Mark your calendar to attend the upcoming Group Health Coaching presentations.

- June 21st at Noon Forest Bathing
- June 29th at Noon Health and Nutrition from the Garden

## EVENTS

### Events

#### **UMC Teambacker Golf Classic presented by Altru, June 17, 2022, Minakwa Golf Course**

This year's tournament consists of 18 holes, (2) mulligans, lunch, and door prizes. This year's fundraising will benefit Golden Eagle Athletics. If you have any questions, please contact Michelle Christopherson at [mchristo@umn.edu](mailto:mchristo@umn.edu) or 218-281-8369.

#### **UMN Crookston Campus BBQ, June 23 at 11:30, Gazebo**

Thursday, June 23 at 11:30, join us for a summer picnic and a little time to catch up. Please let [Chris Winjim](#) know, by June 17, if you will attend and can accommodate any dietary needs you have. This will give you an opportunity to meet some of the new people who have joined us the past few months.

#### **Northwest School of Agriculture Reunion (NWSA), Friday, June 24**

If you have any questions regarding the reunion or any of these events, please contact [Angelika Huglen](#) at [ahuglen@crk.umn.edu](mailto:ahuglen@crk.umn.edu) or 218-281-8401.

### Meals on Wheels

Consider volunteering September 19-23. Delivering Meals on Wheels in collaboration with RiverView Health.

Sign up [here](#).

### Accolades



**2022 Mark Olsonawski Scholarship Golf Tournament Flight A First Place Winners**

Dalton Klegstad, Nick Kennedy, Nathan Kennedy, Alex Strege



**2022 Mark Olsonawski Scholarship Golf Tournament Flight B First Place Winners**

Kolby Costillo, Hunter Plante, Eddie Walker & Ethan Christopherson

For more photos see the [UMN Crookston social media pages](#).

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