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LEADERSHIP LETTER

From the Chancellor

Thank you

January weather has reminded us of the impact snow and ice can have on campus especially for our students. I would like to extend my gratitude to Facilities, Building and Grounds, the Heating Plant and

Sodexo. Winter weather can pose a challenge. So as you are out and about, greet our team who continue to prepare and deliver meals, clear sidewalks, roadways, and door entrances while maintaining temperatures inside when those outside continue to plunge. Thank them. Their efforts continue to make what can be stressful weather events easier and hassle-free.

COVID-19 and Mask Updates

Studies continually show that masking is very effective in mitigating the spread of COVID-19, including the latest Omicron variant. As you know, masks are only effective if worn properly to fully “seal” over your mouth and nose, and even then, some masks are much more effective than others. Studies have shown the KN95 is more effective than cloth masks and disposable paper masks.

We have procured enough KN95 masks for each employee to get one mask if you choose that type. If you haven't picked yours up yet, you can get a KN95 mask from either Nan Widseth in Student Health Services or from Savala DeVoge; both offices are in the Sargeant Student Center 145 suite of offices.

If you would like to have COVID test readily available the U.S. government is sending up to four tests per household. To order your test delivered to your home click the link here. <https://www.covidtests.gov/>

The Armory testing site in Crookston closed January 14.

Join the Book Club

Plan on joining our book club that will be meeting via Zoom this spring. This year we are going to be reading *Alternative Universities: Speculative Design for Innovation in Higher Education* by David Staley. If you would like to participate please let Chris Winjum know and he will order you a copy of the book (electronic or paper).

Facilitating the discussions that will be held every two weeks starting in late February will be Dr. Alex Cirillo, retired head of Innovation for 3M, Andy Furco, former vice provost of Outreach and Engagement, Teresa Spaeth, Veden Chair and Tom Fisher, former dean of the College of Architecture at the Twin Cities and one of the world leaders in design thinking and innovation.

Mark Your Calendar

Mark your calendar for Campus Assembly on March 3. Please let Chris Winjum know if you have agenda items or committee reports.

Take the Survey

You may have heard or seen bits of information regarding our aspiration to become an Association of Public and Land Grant University (APLU) Innovation and Economic Prosperity (IEP) designated campus. This designation is prestigious among land grant institutions and puts us on the path of upgrading our Carnegie classification to an engaged campus. President Gabel has set a goal of having all five campuses receive this designation by 2025 as it is one of the University of Minnesota's strategic initiatives.

Your input is vital as we take this journey. Please take a few minutes to answer the [survey](#) by Tuesday, January 25. Your answers will help us assess our strengths and weaknesses as well as create a strategy for achieving both designations.

Be well.

Chancellor Mary

CAMPUS UPDATES

Human Resources

IT Leadership Update

Congratulations to Mike Hanson who will be retiring on March 2, 2022. Thank you for 28 years of service and commitment to the University of Minnesota Crookston!

Chris Winter has been promoted to the NETS Regional Director

Debi Race has been promoted to Help Desk Manager and will continue to provide academic technology support.

Crookston Wellbeing Program Event, Wed., Feb. 2 @ 11:30

We are excited to announce that Angie Berlinger now offers health coaching services to Crookston employees! Angie has been a health coach at the Morris campus since 2008 and will now serve both the Crookston and Morris campuses. To introduce Angie, we are offering a [free webinar](#) that will also go over the basics of the Wellbeing Program, which is open to any employee enrolled in the University medical plan. Earn 200 Wellbeing Points for attending.

COVID-19

Steps to enhance the University's COVID-19 response and contribute responsibly to our communities have been [updated](#). In alignment with our commitment to public health, last Friday the announcement of a new, temporary proof of vaccination policy. This policy will be in effect from Wednesday, January 26 through at least Wednesday, February 9 at indoor events on any University campus—both in the Twin Cities and across the state.

Student Health

URGENT! Blood Donors needed! Register for the upcoming Blood Drive, Monday, February 7, from 8:30 - 1:15, located in the Wellness Center.

Register online: DONORS.VITALANT.ORG Blood Drive Code: UMC

Student Success Center

GRE Study Group

Planning to take the GRE? Don't know what to expect? Not sure how to study? Sign up for a GRE study group led by Kelsey Torgerson. Study sessions will teach students what to expect from the test, how to find and use GRE resources, and ways to be accountable. Three sections, quantitative reasoning, verbal reasoning, and analytical writing will be covered. Study sessions are an hour every other week (in person or Zoom options available), beginning in February. Interested students should [fill out this form](#) by Friday, January 28. Questions, contact [Kelsey Torgerson](#).

EVENTS

Career Services

Spring Career Fairs - save the dates

- UND Career Expo, February 2, in person.
- Environmental Internship & Career Fair, February 4, virtual
- UMN College of Science & Engineering Career Fair, February 8, virtual
- STEM-Fest Career Fair, February 10 virtual
- [UMN Job & Internship Fair](#), February 25, virtual, student registration opens February 14.



Theater and Music Department

Plan to attend the Student Musical "Two by Two", (February 10, 11, and 12 in Kiehle Auditorium) at 7:30. The all-student cast includes Eliza Freund, Rylee Hanson, Austin Heimgartner, Caidyn Johnon, Caitlin Kalita, Caleb Mendez, Samantha Olek, and Seth Walls. Admission is \$7 adults, \$5 students, and free for UMN Crookston students with I.D. This production is partially supported by a generous grant from the UMC Concerts and Lectures Committee.

Chester Fritz Auditorium, Grand Forks presents, SHEN YUN 2022 - date change

Heavenly music, breathtaking dances, and timeless legends. See the authentic Chinese traditional culture before communism on March 1 at 7:30 at the [Chester Fritz Auditorium](#). Use code "Holiday" to waive the \$10 fee (facility fee \$3, ticketing fee \$7) when you buy tickets from [Shenyun.com/grandforks](https://shenyun.com/grandforks) or call the ticket hotline 888-633-6999. Shen Yun Performing Arts information can be found on the events calendar, click [here](#).

National Day of Racial Healing, Jan. 25, 10am, Zoom

What Will it Take to Heal?

Join local and national educators, leaders, and activists in a virtual community conversation on racial healing, equity, and justice at the University of Minnesota's observance of the W.K. Kellogg Foundation's National Day of Racial Healing. Hosted by the University's Robert J. Jones Urban Research and Outreach-Engagement Center (UROC), the event aims to foster honest and open conversation around the question: What will it take to heal our country?

Writing Center

Consider contributing your original creative writing, artwork, or photography to the [Inspired Art Journal](#). The Inspired Art Journal welcomes submissions of original fiction, non-fiction, poetry, photography, and other visual artwork from any present or past students, faculty, or staff members. Use the [Inspired Art Journal](#) link to upload your submissions, submissions are accepted through January 31.

Agriculture and Natural Resources

North American Colleges and Teachers of Agriculture (NACTA) car washes

Support the NACTA students as they fundraise for their annual NACTA competition. Contact Melissa

Hammer at hamme734@crk.umn.edu to schedule a time. All vehicles are cleaned indoors in the Kiser Building, and can be picked up and dropped off for your convenience.

Ag Arama Showmanship Contest, January 29

University Teaching and Outreach Center (UTOC) Charles H. Casey Equine Arena. Students, faculty and staff now is the time to sign up for training and showmanship! Deadline is January 11 at 3 p.m. Contact Braden at letou074@crk.umn.edu as soon as possible.

Wellness Center

Today, join Noon Ball, an open gym with pickup basketball games for all students and faculty/staff. Students, faculty and staff who are not Wellness Center members can participate in Noon Ball free. January, every Monday and Wednesday at noon.

HIGHLIGHTS

Ag Arama

January 29th join the Ag and Natural Resources department for the 47th annual Ag Arama. An important school tradition since 1975, back when UMN Crookston was a two-year institution, the idea of Ag Arama

was to get students to come back to campus for a second semester instead of staying home to work on their respectable farms. Animal Science instructor and Ag Arama coordinator Terrill Giannonatti-Bradford says "We often refer to it as 'homecoming' for the Agriculture students." Giannonatti-Bradford is accompanied by a committee of students involved in agriculture and natural resources to help plan and operate Ag Arama weekend.