From the Vice Chancellor

On Friday, October 10, the U of M Board of Regents approved the Twin Cities’ strategic plan, with its vision to be “preeminent in solving the grand challenges of a diverse and changing world.” Its four areas of focus are:

- Curricular and research strengths to address the world’s grand challenges
- Field-shaping researchers and teachers
- Engagement with communities
- Excellence and rejection of complacency

Next steps focus on implementation, including incorporating the strategic plan into ongoing planning through Campus Compact and coordination and alignment of the Twin Cities plan with the plans of the system campuses.

How will we coordinate and align the UMC strategic plan with that of the Twin Cities? Two of UMC’s strategic initiatives already align well by focusing on engaging the communities in our region. The planned Center for Rural Economic Development will engage with regional partners to stimulate and grow the entrepreneurial culture and economic vitality of northwest Minnesota and the state. Additionally, the action plans being developed and implemented by the Strategic Philanthropic Engagement and Regional Support (SPERS) group are designed to engage various internal and external constituencies to enhance and leverage support for and goodwill toward UMC. Both of these initiatives recognize what President Kaler calls “place-based” education. Even as it offers the largest number of online programs in the University of Minnesota system, UMC is indeed place-based in Crookston, the northwest region, and Minnesota. By engaging with our communities, UMC advances the University’s land grant mission in ways that align with the Twin Cities strategic plan.

Additional opportunities for aligning and coordinating with the Twin Cities strategic plan reside in the grand challenges and the other focus areas. With a planning approach that addresses “Big Questions” (opportunities and challenges) as they arise, UMC’s next Big Questions may well be: How will UMC respond to the world’s grand challenges? How can UMC recruit and retain the very best educators? How will UMC strive for excellence and reject complacency? UMC’s Strategic Planning Leadership Team will consider these Big Questions as part of its ongoing work this academic year.

With the third UMC strategic planning initiative focused on “achieving and maintaining a critical mass of students on campus, while also continuing to grow strategically online,” recruitment and retention of students were the focus of the October 2 Thursday Commons. As part of the roll-down of this initiative, those at the session were asked to identify their own individual actions and departmental plans in support of role in recruitment and retention. Action plans developed by each department and
unit will roll back up by Thanksgiving. The Executive Committee, the Strategic Planning Leadership Team, and Cabinet will each play a role in reviewing and supporting these action plans.

In other actions at last week’s meetings, the Board of Regents acted to confer indefinite tenure at the rank of professor on Dr. Joseph Shostell, head of UMC’s Math, Science, and Technology Department. Chancellor Wood and I offer our congratulations, Joseph!

Several searches are about to get underway for faculty positions. The Agriculture and Natural Resources Department will be looking for people to fill tenure-track positions in animal science/equine science and agriculture systems management (search ongoing from last year). Ag and NatR will also be searching for a P&A instructional staff member in horticulture. The Business Department will be searching for four tenure-track faculty members, one each in accounting, finance, management, and marketing. Liberal Arts and Education will be looking for tenure-track faculty members in composition and criminal justice, while the Math, Science, and Technology Department will seek to fill a tenure-track biology position and P&A instructional staff position in health management.

The announcement of these positions capped an extensive process that began with last year’s analysis of the faculty complement in each department and across campus. In August of this year, each department generated its own “wish list” of high priority positions. With more high priority needs than there were dollars to support, the department heads and I reviewed the requested positions in light of cross-campus needs and plans. The resulting list, which was supported by Cabinet, received Chancellor Wood’s approval last week.

With mostly tenure-track searches, these positions represent a substantial long-term investment in our academic staffing and programs. Search committees are being formed now. Vacancy notices and recruitment activities will get underway shortly. Finalists will likely be brought to campus in early to mid-spring semester. The goal is to extend offers and receive acceptances before the end of spring semester. Watch for updates throughout the academic year.

Finally, I encourage all faculty and staff members to take part in the Professional Development Day sessions on Friday, October 24. Advising is the focus of the day, with sessions to appeal to faculty and staff alike. The format is that of a conference, with plenary sessions in the morning and concurrent sessions in the afternoon. The location is Bede Ballroom. For those who have not yet attended the sexual violence training, the day begins at 9:30 a.m. with Title IX Campus SaVE Act training in 116 Dowell Hall. For the rest of the day, the schedule begins at 10:30 a.m. with coffee and snacks. On the docket at 11 a.m. is a panel of “Student Voices on Advising.” Among the topics being explored for the afternoon’s concurrent sessions are tips and strategies for seasoned advisors, advising styles, Minnesota Transfer Curriculum and general education overview, APLUS, and more. Full details will be available within the next several days.

Sincerely,
Barbara Keinath
Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs
University of Minnesota Crookston

Featured Events & Activities
What’s on Wednesday (W.O.W.): Homecoming Coronation and Comedy Featuring Pete Lee, Wednesday, October 15 – 7 p.m., Kiehle Auditorium

Admissions Hosts Education Minnesota Day Visits for Prospective Students, Thursday, October 16 – 9 a.m. to Noon and 1 to 4 p.m.

Thursday Commons: Powder Puff Football Game, Thursday, October 16 – 12:30 to 2 p.m., UMC Campus Mall

Admissions Hosts Education Minnesota Day Visits for Prospective Students, Friday, October 17 – 9 a.m. to Noon and 1 to 4 p.m.

Alumni Awards Celebration Banquet, Friday, October 17 – 6 p.m. social, 6:30 p.m. dinner, 7 p.m. program, Bede Ballroom, Sargeant Student Center, tickets $20 per person in advance only

Homecoming Bonfire, Friday, October 17 – 8:45 p.m., Parking Lot D

Alumni Social, Friday, October 17 – 9 p.m., Drafts Bar & Grill, 925 Fisher Ave, Crookston, sponsored by the UMC Alumni Association

Admissions Hosts Education Minnesota Day Visits for Prospective Students, Saturday, October 18 – 9 to 11:30 a.m.

Homecoming “Taking Care of Business” Alumni Brunch for Alumni of UMC’s Business Programs Saturday, October 18 – 9 to 10:30 a.m., Bede Ballroom, Sargeant Student Center

Campus Showcase Activities, Saturday, October 18 – 9:30 to Noon, Eagles Nest, Sahlstrom Conference Center; Noon to 12:30 p.m., 212 Dowell Hall; 12:30 to 1:30 p.m., UTOC Arena, free and open to the public

Homecoming Parade, Saturday, October 18 – 11 a.m., around the Campus Mall, free and open to the public

Homecoming Women’s Soccer Game vs. MSU Moorhead, Saturday, October 18 – 11 a.m., UMC Soccer Field

Homecoming Tailgating, Saturday, October 18 – 11 a.m., Evergreen Grill, Evergreen Hall

Homecoming Football vs. University of Mary, Saturday, October 18 – 1 p.m., Ed Widseth Field

Homecoming Women's Volleyball vs. MSU Moorhead, Saturday, October 18 – 4 p.m., Lysaker Gymnasium, UMC Sports Center

Homecoming Post-Game Social, Saturday, October 18 – 4 p.m., I.C. Muggs, 1500 University Avenue, Crookston

National Collegiate Alcohol Awareness Week (NCAAW), Monday, October 20, through Friday, October 24
GLBTA Issues Session with Stef Wilenchek, GLBTA Program Director, UMTC, Monday, October 20 – 1:30 p.m. to 3 p.m. - Social Construction of Sex and Gender; Bede Ballroom, Sargeant Student Center

A Taste of Europe: Southern Europe, Monday, October 20 – 10:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m., Brown Dining Room, students may use meal plans or cash, faculty $5.50, others $7.80

GLBTA Issues Sessions with Stef Wilenchek, GLBTA Program Director, UMTC, Tuesday, October 21 – 9 to 10:30 a.m. – Intersectionality 101; 10:30 a.m. to Noon - (Trans)Gender 101; Noon to 1:30 p.m. – Ally Training

National Collegiate Alcohol Awareness Week (NCAAW) Event: DWI Blood Alcohol Level Activities, Tuesday, October 21 – 11 a.m. to 1 p.m., Campus Mall

NCAAW Event: Wrecked Squad Car, Wednesday, October 22 – 11 a.m. to 1 p.m., Campus Mall

What’s on Wednesday (W.O.W.): Study Around the World, Wednesday, October 22 – 6 to 8 p.m., Sargeant Student Center

Meet the Candidates Forum, Wednesday, October 22, 6:30 to 9:30 p.m. – Kiehle Auditorium, free and open to the public

NCAAW Event: Driving Course with “Drunk” Goggles, Thursday, October 23 – 11 a.m. to 1 p.m., Campus Mall

NCAAW Guest Speaker Gary Lindsey of RiverView Recovery Center: “Effects of Alcohol on the Developing Brain” Thursday, October 23 – 7 p.m., Kiehle Auditorium, free and open to the public

Professional Development Day, Friday, October 24 – classes excused, campus offices open

Campus SaVE Act, Cleary Act, and Title IX Training for Staff, Friday, October 24 – 9:30 to 10:30 a.m., Alseth-NWSA Business Board Room, 116 Dowell Hall

Admissions Hosts Experience UMC Golden Eagle Equine Visit Day, Saturday, October 25 – 9:30 a.m. to 1 p.m., check-in in Sargeant Student Center

Music on Monday (M.O.M) Featuring Olivia Millerschin, Monday, October 27 – 11:30 am. to 1 p.m., Northern Lights Lounge, Sargeant Student Center

A Taste of Europe: Northern Europe, Monday, October 27 – 4:15 to 7 p.m., Brown Dining Room, students may use meal plans or cash, faculty $5.50, others $7.80

Torch and Shield Recognition, Wednesday, October 29 – 5 p.m. reception, Bede Ballroom, Sargeant Student Center; 6 p.m. program, Bede Ballroom; Dinner (by invitation) following program, Brow Dining Room, Sahlstrom Conference Center

For details on these and a comprehensive listing of other events or to discover what’s happening this week, visit UMC Today at www.umcrookston.edu/today or review our news page at http://blog.lib.umn.edu/umcweb/news .
Learn more about events across the entire University of Minnesota system via Brief: www.umn.edu/twincities/faculty-staff/brief.

Around Campus

Administrative Affairs –

A repeat session of Campus SaVE Act, Cleary Act, and Title IX Training will be offered on Friday, October 24, from 9:30 to 10:30 a.m. in the Alseth-NWSA Business Boardroom, 116 Dowell Hall. This is a required, annual training covering new federal regulations and related changes to University policies and procedures. All faculty and staff are expected to attend, except those who need to cover their work area. These are federally mandated programs.

Advising is the focus of the day during Professional Development Day on Friday, October 24. Classes are excused for the day, and all faculty and staff are invited to take part. The format is conference-style with plenary sessions in the morning and concurrent sessions in the afternoon. All sessions will be held in Bede Ballroom. Lunch will be provided. Concurrent session topics may include tips and strategies for seasoned advisors, advising styles, Minnesota Transfer Curriculum and general education overview, APLUS, and more. The schedule is as follows:

10:30 a.m. - Coffee and snacks
10:45 a.m. - Welcome
11 a.m. - Student Voices on Advising (Student Panel)
Noon - Lunch
1 p.m. - Concurrent Sessions
1:45 - Break
2 p.m. - Concurrent sessions
2:45-3:30 p.m. - Wrap-up session, closing remarks, feedback

Academic Affairs –

On Thursday, October 23, a delegation from the U of M Twin Cities School of Medicine and School of Nursing will visit the Crookston campus. The group will include Connie Delaney, dean of the School of Nursing; Christine Mueller, associate dean, School of Nursing; Laurissa Stigen, coordinator, School of Nursing; and Simone Gbolo, director of the Minnesota Future Doctors Program at the School of Medicine. While on campus, they will meet with faculty and students interested in pursuing graduate or professional education. Students may meet with the three leaders from the School of Nursing from Noon to 1 p.m. about the “Pathway to Nursing” and the U of M’s Master of Nursing program. The delegation will then meet with faculty and staff from the Math, Science, and Technology Department from 1 to 2 p.m. in 208 Dowell Hall. Simone Gbolo is scheduled to meet with students interested in medical school from 2 to 3 p.m. in the Minnesota Room, Sargeant Student Center.
Student Affairs & Enrollment Management –

October 13 through 18 is Homecoming 2014. With the theme “Paint the Town Maroon and Gold,” students, faculty, alumni, and staff are encouraged to take part in the many planned activities. For a full schedule of events visit www.umcrookston.edu/homecoming.

Stef Wilenchek, the U of M Twin Cities GLBTA (Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, Transgender, and Ally) Program Director, will present sessions on a number of different topics on Monday, October 20, and Tuesday, October 21. These sessions, held in Bede Ballroom, are free and open to all who are interested.

- Monday, October 20 - 1:30 to 3 p.m. - Social Construction of Sex and Gender
- Tuesday, October 21 - 9 a.m. to 10:30 a.m. - Intersectionality 101
- Tuesday, October 21 - 10:30 a.m. to Noon p.m. (Trans)Gender 101
- Noon to 1:30 p.m. Ally Training - Bede Ballroom

A series of educational events is planned for National Collegiate Alcohol Awareness Week (NCAAW) October 20-24. Activities include:

- Monday, October 20 – 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. – Awareness Booth, Sargeant Student Center
- Tuesday, October 21 – 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. – DWI Blood Alcohol Activities, Sargeant Student Ctr.
- Wednesday, October 22 – 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. – Wrecked Squad Car, Campus Mall
- Thursday, October 23 – 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. – Driving Course with 'Drunk' Goggles, Campus Mall
- Thursday, October 23 – 7 p.m. – Guest speaker Gary Lindsey of RiverView Recovery Center, “Effects of Alcohol on the Developing Brain,” Kiehle Auditorium
- Friday, October 24 – 1 p.m. - Games and Goggles with Tasty Food, Evergreen Hall Play Field

"Study Around the World" will take place on Wednesday, October 22, from 6 to 8 p.m. in Sargeant Student Center. Information regarding UMC’s five study abroad programs to Italy, India, New Zealand, Brazil and Costa Rica will be presented as well as financial aid counseling on how to fund a study abroad experience. Fun activities are planned involving Roman togas, Maori paintings, Sari dress up and Bollywood movies, and appetizers will be available for those who participate. Passport photos will be taken for $5, and a staff member will help guide interested individuals through the steps of getting a passport.

Human Resources –

The second annual E2 Employee Engagement Survey opened October 13 and is an opportunity for faculty and staff to have their voices heard. An e-mail from Hay Group, the U's engagement survey vendor, was sent on October 13 to benefits-eligible faculty and staff on all campuses. If employees don't see it, they should use the Gmail search bar with the terms "in:anywhere" and "engagement" to find it. Employees are asked to complete the survey by October 31. Online resources are also available, including a fact sheet, flyer, FAQs, and the current response rate by college or unit. Learn more at www.umn.edu/ohr/training/e2.
The UMC Library, with efforts led by Terry Tollefson, recently completed digitizing the complete run of the alumni publication *The Torch*. *The Torch* was first published in 1977 and continues today. Issues can either be keyword searched or browsed page by page. This title has been added to other digitized publications on the UMC Library Digital Archive site. [http://umclibrary.crk.umn.edu/digitalprojects/](http://umclibrary.crk.umn.edu/digitalprojects/).

**Development & Alumni Relations –**

The Alumni Awards Celebration (formerly Outstanding Alumni & Athletic Hall of Fame) will be held Friday, October 17, in Bede Ballroom. The evening begins with a social at 6 p.m., dinner at 6:30 p.m., and program following. This year’s outstanding alumni include Wayne Schertler '83 and Theresa Helgeson '96. Athletic Hall of Fame Inductees include Scott Strohmeier '99, the 1997 Football Team and Bill Tyrrell. Special recognition will be given to Richard Magnusson '81, who won the Siehl Prize for Excellence in Agriculture earlier this year. He is the first UMC alum to receive this award.

The Business Department will sponsor the "Taking Care of Business" Alumni Brunch on Saturday, October 18, from 9 to 10 a.m. in Bede Ballroom, Sargeant Student Center. The brunch, for alumni of UMC’s business programs, will be hosted by Bruce and Sue Brorson.

The 2014 Torch & Shield Recognition will be held on the evening of Wednesday, October 29, and will honor Susan Hagstrum, Peter Wasberg, and the Minnesota Wheat Research and Promotion Council. This special event also honors individuals and businesses who have supported the campus through their generous lifetime and annual giving. The evening begins with a 5 p.m. reception and a program at 6 p.m., both in Bede Ballroom followed by dinner (by invitation) in Brown Dining Room, Sahlstrom Conference Center. Kathy Schmidtkofer, president and CEO of the University of Minnesota Foundation, will be in attendance and will bring greetings on behalf of the Foundation.

**University Relations –**

The Crookston Chamber of Commerce and the University of Minnesota Crookston will co-host a Meet the Candidates Forum on Wednesday, October 22, from 6:30 to 9:30 p.m. in Kiehle Auditorium. The event is free and members of the public are encouraged to attend. The schedule for the evening is as follows:

- 6:30 p.m. Welcome
- 6:35 p.m. School Board Candidates - Tim Dufault, Patty Dillabough, and Adrianne Winger
- 7:10 p.m. City Council Candidates
  - Ward 2: Dana Johnson and Steve Erickson
  - Ward 4: Hector Santellanes, Dennis Regan, Adam Herberg, and Will Enlow
  - Ward 6: Tom Vedbratten
  - At Large position: Bob Quanrud and Travis Oliver
- 7:45 p.m. Mayoral Candidates - Gary Willhite, Dale Stainbrook, and Jerry Joseph Perrson
- 8:20 p.m. County Commissioner Candidates
  - District 2: Warren Strandell
  - District 4: Joan K. Lee and Kerry Winkelmann
- 8:45 p.m. House District 1B Candidates - Deb Kiel and Eric Bergeson
Athletics –

Ryan McGuigan has been hired as head women’s tennis coach for the Golden Eagles. Currently a tennis instructor at Choice Health and Fitness in Grand Forks, N.D., McGuigan was captain of the University of North Dakota men's tennis team from 2012-14. In addition to working as a tennis instructor at Choice Health and Fitness, he has been a tennis manager and tennis instructor for the Fargo Park District, a tennis coach for Fargo Public Schools, and a Pro Shop Assistant at Courts Plus Community Fitness in Fargo, N.D. McGuigan holds Bachelor of Science in aeronautics with a major in air traffic control and a minor in psychology from the University of North Dakota, Grand Forks, N.D.

The UMC Athletic Department recognized the recipients of the Ed Widseth and Crookston Chamber of Commerce Agassiz Bowl Scholarships on Saturday, October 4, at a breakfast on campus and at half-time of the UMC and St. Cloud State football game that afternoon. The Ed Widseth Scholarship recognizes those qualities epitomized by Ed Widseth – outstanding athletic, leadership and academic achievements. Widseth, a Gonvick, Minn., native began his football career in the fall of 1929 at the Northwest School of Agriculture and graduated in 1932. He went on to star for the Minnesota Gophers and was a co-captain of the 1936 National Championship Team. The 2014 Widseth Scholarship recipients are Derek Greene (Fr., Covington, Ga., software engineering), Matt Hunt (Fr., New Brighton, Minn., criminal justice), Julian McElroy (Fr., Sacramento, Calif., business management), J.T. Moran (Fr., North Richland Hills, Texas, criminal justice), and Benjamin Taliulu (Fr., Aiea, Hawaii, undeclared). The 2014 recipient of the Crookston Chamber Agassiz Bowl Scholarship is Kamron Matejcek (Fr., Brocket, N.D., ag systems management).

To view all game scores and upcoming athletic events, visit www.goldeneaglesports.com.

Campus and Community

The U of M Crookston will serve as the host site for a Community Conversation about Mental Illness on Tuesday, October 21, from 6 to 8 p.m. in the Prairie Room, Sargeant Student Center. The event is free and open to the public. The goal of Community Conversations is to encourage people to talk about mental health and mental illnesses; Challenge misconceptions, myths and misinformation, increase community knowledge and support; make communities inclusive and free from discrimination; promote prevention and early intervention; and agree on steps that communities can take. The event, sponsored by the Northwest Mental Health Center and the National Alliance on Mental Illness along with other partners, features speakers followed by a group discussion. For registration and information, visit www.namihelps.org.

University of Minnesota System

Academic units and individual faculty members are invited to submit expressions of interest for educational innovation grants from the U of M’s Provost’s Office and the Center for Educational Innovation. Proposals from faculty or Professional and Administrative (P&A) positions with primary responsibility for teaching courses will be considered from all system campuses for any undergraduate degree-granting program. The awards support innovative undergraduate teaching and learning at the course or curricular level. They provide substantial financial and staff support to design, deliver, and
measure the impact of novel approaches by faculty, P&A instructors, and academic leaders. The deadline is November 3. Learn more at http://sites.google.com/a/umn.edu/experiments-in-learning-innovation/home.

With Diana Harvey's departure from the University of Minnesota as chief communications officer and deputy chief of staff, U of M President Eric Kaler has appointed Ann Aronson, chief marketing officer, and Chuck Tombarge, senior director of public relations, as deputy chiefs of staff to the president for communications and coleaders of University Relations, effective October 13, 2014. As coleaders, the two will have joint responsibility and accountability for providing leadership to University Relations; advancing the institution's brand, reputation, and profile; aligning communications strategies across campuses, colleges, and units; overseeing the communications dotted line relationships across the University; and collaborating with units across campus and with external organizations to enhance support of the University's marketing and communications strategies. Aronson will continue in her role as chief marketing officer for the University, managing the marketing, creative services, and electronic communications staff in University Relations. Tombarge will continue in his role as chief public relations officer for the University, managing the News Service and strategic communications staff in University Relations. There will be some modest restructuring within University Relations to allow each of them to assume this added leadership responsibility. Both will report to Chief of Staff Amy Phenix, and both will serve as members of the president’s senior leadership team.

Ken Kerns has been appointed to the position of assistant vice president (AVP), University Health and Safety (UHS). He will begin in his new role on November 24, 2014. The AVP is responsible for the development, implementation, administration, facilitation, and monitoring of health, safety, and preparedness policies and programs for the University of Minnesota system. The position works collaboratively with faculty, academic administrators, and staff to support academic and research excellence while developing and sustaining a culture of safety and compliance. University Health and Safety was recently expanded, and now includes the Department of Environmental Health and Safety, the Office of Occupational Health and Safety, Facilities Management Safety, the Department of Emergency Management, and the Building Code Division. Kerns comes to the U of M from Tulane University, where he served for the past three years as the assistant vice president for environmental health and safety. Prior to Tulane, he served at Iowa State University for sixteen years as the associate director for environmental health and safety, specializing in radiation safety, emergency management, and physical safety. He also continues to consult on a periodic basis for the International Atomic Energy Agency, a role he has maintained since 1997. He received his B.S. in zoology from Weber State College, and his M.S. in zoology from Iowa State.

**Accolades**

The University of Minnesota Crookston is listed among “The 30 Best Affordable Online Colleges 2014” by Best Value Schools, an online resource dedicated to helping students find “those schools that can provide the best overall value for [the] educational dollar...and the highest Return on Investment...” The website is edited by Pam Beiler, a human resources professional in the non-profit arena before she joined Best Value Schools. The U of M Crookston was ranked at #20 on the list of 30 colleges and universities for 2014. View the full listing as well as the selection methodology at www.bestvalueschools.com/affordable-online-colleges-2014.
Publication notes: The E-Update is published twice each month August through April and once each month May through July. Issues are posted online at www.umcrookston.edu/admin/chancellor/eupdate. If you have any questions regarding the information in this news update, please send them to urumc@umn.edu.

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