From The Chancellor

Welcome to the 2015-2016 academic year! I hope everyone’s summer was productive and that you all had an opportunity to spend time with family and friends over the summer months and to “reenergize” for another school year. I would like to offer a very special welcome to our new faculty and staff. We have a number of new employees on campus, and I hope each of you have found or will find this campus and community as welcoming as I did when I first moved here over three years ago.

Since commencement in early May, the campus has had several projects going on in addition to numerous routine maintenance. This is the work of many, many folks. Highlights include:

- work for the campus electrical system upgrade.
- numerous painting projects throughout campus.
- prep work for the move of Admissions to old AURI space; we are now just waiting for furniture to arrive and to be installed before we make the move.
- outrageously beautiful gardens and grounds this summer!
- wonderful edible gardens on the north side of campus.
- and the very exciting work on the Wellness Center, which I am sure you have all noticed.

As I mentioned in a previous “From the Chancellor” column, this summer’s executive retreat focused on the issues of equity, diversity, and inclusion. I can think of no topics more important for our campus—both now and in the future. Put simply, we cannot reach excellence as a campus if we don’t reach excellence in these dimensions as part and parcel of our efforts.

The retreat, while providing us with an important start on these issues, is just the beginning of what will be an intentional and focused ongoing effort throughout the upcoming year. I hope each of you, as a member of our campus community, will join in this vital effort. Thanks to all who attended the retreat as well as those who attended Tuesday morning’s Campus Climate Conversation, which served as a starting discussion of next steps on our collective journey of continuous improvement in these critically important areas. We also are committing our October 23 Professional Development Day for this important work of equity, diversity, and inclusion.

Our institution has shown an amazing resilience and the ability to change. It has had to. We have evolved to stay current and to find our place in the marketplace. Just as this has been so critical in the past, it will be so in the future. Our aspirations for growth will be part of this change and this will be part of our evolution. As we evolve, we must, however, keep our eye on a number of factors moving forward. First and foremost is quality. We must strive for excellence in everything we do, and particularly in our academic programs – both on-campus and online. It is our niche in the marketplace as a campus of the University of Minnesota.
Thanks to each of you for all your excellent work for the campus and our students. I anticipate a great year for our students, staff, and faculty at the University of Minnesota Crookston. I look forward to working with you as we embark on a journey of continuous improvement to take UMC to higher levels of excellence.

Fred Wood
Chancellor
University of Minnesota Crookston

From the Vice Chancellor

Comprehensive Quality Review by the Higher Learning Commission

Every fall semester brings its own energy and excitement, and fall 2015 is no exception. Adding to this usual excitement is the prospect of a Higher Learning Commission Comprehensive Quality Review accreditation site visit on November 9-11. The Academic Quality Improvement Program (AQIP), one of three Higher Learning Commission pathways to maintaining accreditation, is grounded in a commitment to continuous improvement. AQIP is UMC’s chosen pathway.

It’s a busy pathway, with several elements to participation. There are annual Action Projects and, every four years, the Systems Portfolio (which we submitted in May, 2014), Systems Appraisal Feedback Report (received last fall), and Strategy Forum (completed in February 2015).

Every eight years, a comprehensive site visit is conducted. The site visit is followed by a decision by the Higher Learning Commission on Reaffirmation of Accreditation. This academic year is our year for these activities, starting with the Comprehensive Quality Review (CQR).

This is the comprehensive site visit, which will take place November 9-11. With a focus on continuous improvement and the Criteria for Accreditation, the CQR is both different from and similar to the 10-year PEAQ site visit, which is familiar to many.

The differences:
- The ramp-up to the visit is different. There is no two-year self-study. The Systems Portfolio completed in 2014 stands in the place of the self-study.
- We do have a 12-15 page quality update that is due to the HLC around October 1. This report allows us to update the HLC on what we have done since we submitted the Systems Portfolio.
- A strong focus of the visit is our commitment to and implementation of continuous improvement (processes, results, improvement).

The similarities:
- A team of five peer reviewers will conduct the CQR over 2.5 days.
- The team will set the agenda for the visit.
- Many of you are likely to be wanted for conversations/interviews with the site visit team.
- Rooms have been reserved for the team headquarters, a resource room, and interview locations.
- Affirming that we meet the HLC Criteria for Accreditation is a major purpose of the visit, just as it always was in PEAQ.
To ensure a strong student voice in the review, the Higher Learning Commission will survey UMC students in advance of the visit. The Higher Learning Commission conducts this survey for all institutions, regardless of pathway to accreditation. The Higher Learning Commission compiles the results to share with the peer review team and the campus. (See related Student Opinion Survey below.)

The Executive Committee and AQIP Steering Committee will play significant roles in preparing for the visit. Governance groups (Faculty Assembly, Faculty Consultative Committee, Campus Assembly, Crookston Student Association) will be important conduits for communication during the weeks between now and November 9.

You can also look for updates via E-Update and e-mail.

**Student Opinion Survey from the Higher Learning Commission**

In preparation for the Comprehensive Quality Review, the Higher Learning Commission “conducts surveys of student opinion to inform peer review teams” and “help the peer review team identify possible questions for its meetings with faculty, staff and students during the visit.” All UMC students will be invited to complete the survey beginning September 7.

The survey will require only 5 to 10 minutes to complete. Only aggregated results will be provided to the peer review team and UMC. A student’s individual responses are confidential.

A high response rate from our on-campus and online students will provide the best, most representative student voice. Watch for the survey invitation, which will come via e-mail from Chancellor Wood. Then, as soon as they can, students should complete the survey, so their thoughts are part of the feedback we and the Higher Learning Commission receive.

Barbara Keinath
Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs
University of Minnesota Crookston

**Featured Events & Activities**

**Campus SaVE Act and Title IX Training for Faculty and Staff, Thursday, August 20** – 8:30 a.m. to 10 a.m., Bede Ballroom, required annual training for all faculty and staff

**UMC Faculty and Staff Golf Scramble and Social, Thursday, August 20** – 3 to 5:30 p.m. tournament followed by social, Minakwa Country Club, 901 Fisher Ave., Crookston

**Crookston Community Bus Tour and Social for New Faculty and Staff, Thursday, August 20** – 4 to 5:30 p.m. tour followed by social, starts and ends at Minakwa Country Club, 901 Fisher Ave., Crookston

**New Student Orientation and Residence Halls Open for New Students, Friday, August 21** – 8 a.m. to 3 p.m., check-in at Rotunda in Kiehle Building, residence hall check-in at Centennial Hall

**New Faculty Development Training, Friday, August 21** – 8:30 to 11 a.m., 106 Dowell Hall

**Orientation Convocation, Friday, August 21** – 3:15 to 4 p.m., Kiehle Auditorium, processional gathering for faculty and staff starts at 3 p.m. in Kiehle Rotunda.
Meet Crookston Through Service, Saturday, August 22 – 8:30 a.m. to Noon, meet in Brown Dining Room, Sahlstrom Conference Center and buses will take volunteers to various sites across Crookston

Advisor and Department Meetings with New Transfer and Non-Traditional Students, Monday, August 24 – 11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m., Bede Ballroom and Brown Dining Room

Advisor and Department Meetings with New Freshmen Students Monday, August 24 – 2:30 to 3:30 p.m., Ag&NatR in Kiehle Auditorium, Business in 100 Dowell Hall, LAE in Bede Ballroom, MST in 106 Dowell Hall

First Day of Classes for Fall Semester 2015, Tuesday, August 25

Crookston Chamber Educators Luncheon, Tuesday, September 1 – 11 a.m. to 1 p.m., UMC faculty and staff may stop in any time during these two hours, free, Minakwa Country Club, 901 Fisher Ave., Crookston

Annual Campus-Community Picnic, Wednesday, September 2 – 4:30 to 6:30 p.m., Bede Ballroom, Sargeant Student Center, free for UMC students, faculty, and staff

Performance by Grammy Award-Winning Musician Mike Farris, Wednesday, September 2 – 7:30 p.m., Kiehle Auditorium, free and open to the public

Labor Day Holiday, Monday, September 7 – classes excused, campus offices closed

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://news.crk.umn.edu/news. Learn more about events across the entire University of Minnesota system via Brief: http://brief.umn.edu/.

Around Campus

Administrative Affairs –

University of Minnesota President Eric Kaler will visit the Crookston campus on Thursday, August 20, and Friday, August 21, as part of a tour of northwest Minnesota. He is expected to arrive on campus in the mid-afternoon of August 20 after meeting with legislators in Moorhead. At 3 p.m. that day he will meet with local media in the Prairie Room in Sargeant Student Center. Following that, he will join faculty and staff at their annual golf tournament and social at Minakwa Country Club in Crookston. He is scheduled to meet with area legislators on Thursday evening. On Friday, August 21, President Kaler will meet with academic department heads and new faculty at 8:30 a.m. in Prairie Room, and after that he and Chancellor Wood will visit new students and their families as they move into the campus residence halls. Finally at 10:30 a.m. he will meet with local alumni (by invitation) over brunch before continuing on his tour of the region.

Academic Affairs –

Bilal Al-Ahmad, Ph.D., has been hired as a lecturer for software engineering in the Math, Science & Technology Department. He holds a Ph.D. in software engineering from North Dakota State University (NDSU), in Fargo. He earned an M.S. in computer information systems from Yarmouk University, in Irbid,
Jordan, and a B.S. in computer information systems from Jordan University of Science and Technology, also in Irbid. He has served as a teaching assistant in the Computer Science Department at NDSU and as a lecturer at Hashemite University in Jordan.

Christine Bakke, Ph.D., has been hired as a lecturer for software engineering in the Math, Science & Technology Department. She holds a Ph.D. in information technology from Capella University, and she completed both an M.S. in education and a B.S. in computer science at Bemidji State University. She comes to UMC after serving as an adjunct faculty member in the area of computer science at Bemidji State. She has also served as a technology and math integrationist working with technology curriculum, instruction, and support for the Red Lake School District’s school in Ponemah, Minn., and as a network administrator for the Clearbrook-Gonvick School District in Clearbrook, Minn.

Sam Gruenberg has been hired as a lecturer for composition in the Liberal Arts & Education Department. He holds an M.F.A. in English from the University of North Dakota (UND) in Grand Forks and a B.A. in English from UND as well. He also completed master’s level coursework in creative writing at Wichita State University, in Wichita, Kansas. He comes to UMC after teaching discussion- and writing-intensive special topics courses for UND’s Honors Program. He also has taught composition and writing coursework at Northland Community and Technical College for the past several years.

Heidi Guggisberg-Coners has been hired as a lecturer for communication in the Liberal Arts & Education Department. She holds an M.S. in child, youth, and family studies from the University of Nebraska in Lincoln and an M.A. in speech communication from North Dakota State University (NDSU), in Fargo. She earned her B.S. in mass communication from NDSU as well. She is currently working on her doctorate in communication via Regent University in Virginia Beach, Virginia. Guggisberg-Coners has served as an adjunct instructor at Red Rocks Community College in Arvada/Lakewood, Colorado; Metropolitan Community College in Omaha, Nebraska; and at South Dakota State University, and she was a teaching assistant for a doctoral course at Regent University.

Rutherford Johnson, Ph.D., has been hired as a lecturer for economics in the Business Department. He holds a Ph.D. in agricultural economics from the University of Kentucky and an M.S. in economics as well as a B.S. in applied physics from the Georgia Institute of Technology in Atlanta. Most recently he has served as an adjunct professor of economic geography at the University of South Alabama. He has also served as an assistant professor of economics for SolBridge International School of Business in Daejeon, South Korea. Additionally, he operates his own consulting business supervising and directing projects, management, social media, and marketing initiatives for private and public companies and organizations.

Jack Lesser, Ph.D., has been hired as a lecturer for marketing in the Business Department. He holds a Ph.D. in marketing and a Bachelor of Business Administration from the University of Oklahoma in Norman, Oklahoma, as well as an M.B.A. from Northwestern University in Evanston, Illinois. He comes to UMC after serving as an adjunct professor teaching marketing courses online for Colorado Technical University. He also has served as a professor of marketing for Miami University in Oxford, Ohio, and was a member of the National Steering Committee of the American Marketing Association.

Grace Menze, Ph.D., has been hired as a lecturer for accounting in the Business Department. She holds an M.S. in accounting from the University of Toledo in Ohio as well as a Master of Economics in finance and Bachelor of Economics in international finance from Northeastern University of Finance and Economics in China. She has served as an accounting instructor at Rochester Community and Technical College in Rochester, Minn., and at South Central College in Mankato, Minn. She also has experience as a marketing coordinator and project manager for Blue Spring International, in Edmond, Oklahoma.
Craig Miller, D.B.A., has been hired as a lecturer for accounting in the Business Department. He holds a Doctor of Business Administration from Metropolitan State University in Minneapolis, and an M.B.A. as well as a B.S.B. from the Carlson School of Management at the University of Minnesota Twin Cities. For the past several years, he has served as a member of the faculty in the Division of Business and Technology at Normandale Community College in Bloomington, Minn. He also has significant experience with instructional design and integrating technology into teaching, including simulation models. He was awarded the Minnesota State College Students Association (MSCSA) State Teacher of the Year for his use of innovative, engaging, and classroom use of computer games and simulations.

John Nebeck, Ph.D., has been hired as a lecturer for management in the Business Department. He holds a Ph.D. in organizational management specializing in consumer behavior from Capella University in Minneapolis, Minn., and an M.S.B.A. in marketing as well as a B.S. in marketing management, both from the University of Illinois at Urbana. He has served as an associate professor teaching marketing and management at both Missouri Valley College in Marshall, Missouri, and at Viterbo University, in La Crosse, Wisconsin. He has also served as a workshop leader and job coach for Job Development Specialists of Wisconsin and has worked with several organizations and communities on marketing campaigns.

Student Affairs –

The University is required to conduct annual Title IX, Campus SaVE Act, and Violence Against Women Act (VAWA) training for all of its employees and students. A training session for all new employees will be held on Thursday, August 20, from 8:30 to 10 a.m. in Bede Ballroom, Sargeant Student Center. Returning employees are invited to attend this session as well to satisfy their annual training requirement. UMC has scheduled the September 17 Thursday Commons time for a campus-wide session, which will allow the entire campus to engage in these important topics and discuss effective prevention and awareness programs. Additionally, the University of Minnesota system has coordinated with the system campuses to develop an interactive, online training program. The program has been customized to be campus-specific. UMC’s online version should be available for use within the next month. More information about this 45 minute training/quiz option will be forthcoming.

Grammy Award-winning musician Mike Farris will perform at the U of M Crookston on Wednesday, September 2, at 7:30 p.m. in Kiehle Auditorium. The concert is free and open to the public. The event marks Recovery Month and is co-sponsored by UMC Career Development & Counseling Services and RiverView Health. Farris became the first artist to receive a Grammy Award in the new category Best Roots Gospel Album for his album "Shine for All the People." He was presented the award by the National Academy of Recording Arts and Sciences at the 57th annual Grammy Awards ceremony held on February 8, 2015, in Los Angeles.

Student Health provides physician services for UMC students most Tuesdays from 9 to 11 a.m. and Thursdays from 3 to 5 p.m. Dr. Saravana Balaraman is a family physician from RiverView Health, and he will be on campus during those days and times. Students must make an appointment to be seen by Dr. Balaraman by contacting Stacey Grunewald, RN, at either 218-8512 or sgrunewa@umn.edu.

International Programs –

The campus will welcome more than 40 new international students this fall. These students come from Australia, Bangladesh, Brazil, Canada, China, Egypt, Korea, Nepal, Nigeria, Saudi Arabia, and Viet Nam.
Office of International Programs at UMC has worked with governmental officials, and the campus has been designated as an approved ESL center for the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia's scholarship program. Four students have enrolled for fall semester through this program.

**Academic Success Center** –

This semester the Academic Success Center (ASC) has moved the tutor request process completely online. The following link is the new site for students to request a tutor both online and on-campus: https://cf-prod1.crk.umn.edu/asc/tutors/index.cfm. There will no longer be blue cards to sign to approve a tutor request. Instead, faculty will receive an automated e-mail letting them know which student has requested a tutor and in what class section they are enrolled. The automated e-mail will detail the expectations that are communicated to both tutor and tutee and will include a reminder of whom to contact if the faculty member does not approve a request. Contact Jamie Fagerholt or Josh Parrill or e-mail umctutor@umn.edu with any questions.

**Library** –

As a courtesy, beginning this fall semester faculty, staff, and students will receive monthly reminder e-mails of items they currently have checked out from the library and when the items are due.

**University Relations** –

Regular hours of operation for staff in the Printing & Design Unit for fall semester 2015 are as follows: printing work (contact Judy Baatz, 125 Kiehle, ext. 8403), Monday through Friday from 8:30 a.m. to 3 p.m.; design work (contact Patti Tiedemann, 119 Kiehle, ext. 8402), Monday through Wednesday 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Thursday 7:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. These hours may change slightly in October. If so, the campus community will be notified.

**Athletics** –

Liam Higginson has been promoted to head athletic trainer. He has spent the last two years as the assistant athletic trainer, working with the volleyball and men's basketball teams last season. Higginson worked with the football team during their spring season and will serve as their head trainer, while he continues to work with the men's basketball team.

**Campus and Community**

Faculty and staff are invited to join new students to take part in Meet Crookston Through Service on the morning of Saturday, August 22. Faculty and staff participants should arrive between 8 and 8:30 a.m. in Brown Dining Room, Sahlstrom Conference Center. Volunteer groups will go to fourteen different project sites involving community engagement and service projects throughout Crookston. These groups will work to complete the projects at each site over the next two-and-a-half hours. Participants are also invited to an appreciation dinner at 5 p.m. in Brown Dining Room, where they will share their thoughts and experiences.
Student Affairs, Dining Services, University Relations, the Crookston Chamber of Commerce and Visitors Bureau, and the Retail Merchants Association will co-sponsor the annual **Campus-Community Picnic on Wednesday, September 2, from 4:30 to 6:30 p.m. in Bede Ballroom, Sargeant Student Center.** UMC students, faculty, and staff are invited to stop by for various food and samples from many Crookston restaurants and establishments. This event is free to the campus community. Additionally, several local businesses and organizations will have informational tables set up in the Northern Lights Lounge of the Sargeant Student Center.

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**Publication notes:** 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](http://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. The University of Minnesota is an equal opportunity educator and employer.