From The Chancellor

The Board of Regents met last week, and I wanted to mention a few items from those meetings. First, the Regents continued to discuss the “Progress Card” that will provide goals and aspirational measures for the University. Some of these are system-wide and others are campus specific. Related to our specific campus are goals such as the 4-year graduation rate (45%/2017 Cohort) and the 6-year graduation rate (60%/2015 Cohort). In addition, we are expected to contribute to system-wide goals such as the 4-year graduation of Pell-eligible students, institutional gift aid, and median undergraduate student debt at graduation. While the draft “Progress Card” has not been finalized, it will be important that we keep these measures in mind moving forward.

One of the goals listed on the “Progress Card” is to increase the participation rate in the Employee Engagement Survey. We have all received email requests from President Kaler and Vice President Brown to complete the survey. Please do so! It is very important that we all take 15 minutes to complete the survey as we will continue to use the results of the survey to help design programs to address issues that arise. Our responses are kept in strict confidence by the outside vendor and everyone is strongly encouraged to participate. This is the third consecutive year for the survey, which will be useful in creating a baseline; however, it will not be given again next year. So, please complete the survey this year before the deadline of October 30.

Among the presentations given to the Regents and those attending the meetings, the President provided a brief overview of a new advertising campaign tied to Driven to Discover that showcases the important work done by faculty across the system, and asks "what drives" them to seek answers. This is a system-wide campaign, and the Crookston campus will be included along with the other four U of M campuses. Refer to www.umn.edu/discover to see examples. In November, UMC’s very own Dr. Venu Mukku's research will be highlighted with a billboard in northwest Minnesota (the location is still being finalized at this time). My thanks to Andrew Svec and Elizabeth Tollefson in UMC University Relations as they have been working with the U Relations staff in the Twin Cities to make sure Crookston is represented in this campaign. This is another example of the strength and resources we share as part of the University of Minnesota.

I also want to thank Peter Phaiah for joining a system-wide panel presentation on University Enrollment Management at the Academic and Student Affairs Committee of the Board of Regents. By all reports this presentation was well received. It also led to additional discussions of system-wide enrollment management efforts at the Board of Regents Work Session that can greatly benefit the campus.

Finally, last week’s Homecoming was certainly successful on many fronts. It was wonderful to see so many alumni return, and they seemed to be enjoying all the festivities along with students, parents, staff, faculty, and community members. There are so many folks who work to make this a successful week of events, including the students who worked hard to connect the community, but I would like to specifically thank Sue Dwyer, Garret Kollin, and Rose Ulseth for their work in welcoming back the alumni. My thanks to one and all for their work on this important annual event.
Featured Events & Activities

The Clothesline Project Display, Tuesday, October 13, and Wednesday, October 14 – 10 a.m. to 6 p.m., Bede Ballroom, rooms A and B

Admissions Office Open House, Wednesday, October 14 – 2 to 3:30 p.m., Suite A, Owen Hall

Thursday Commons: Fall Semester Convocation, Thursday, October 15 – 12:30 p.m., Kiehle Auditorium

Crookston Community Theatre Presents "Cat on a Hot Tin Roof" by Tennessee Williams, Thursday, October 15; Friday, October 16; and Saturday, October 17 – 7:30 p.m. nightly, Kiehle Auditorium, tickets $12 per person

“Dream, Achieve, Succeed! Tools and Resources to Help You Navigate the Dream Act and Immigration Law,” Saturday, October 17 – 11 a.m. to 2 p.m., Bede Ballroom, Sargeant Student Center, free and open to the public

Music on Monday Featuring Ella Mae, Monday, October 19 – 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m., Northern Lights Lounge, Sargeant Student Center

National Collegiate Alcohol Awareness Week Speaker and Former Miss America Tara Conner, Wednesday, October 21 – 7 p.m., Kiehle Auditorium, free and open to the public

UMC Professional Development Day, Friday, October 23 – classes excused, campus offices open but with some limited times or staffing

Soup and Substance: , Tuesday, October 27 – Noon to 1 p.m., Bede Ballroom, Sargeant Student Center

Torch and Shield Recognition, Wednesday, October 28 – 5 p.m. reception, 6 p.m. program, Bede Ballroom, Sargeant Student Center; dinner in Brown Dining Room, Sahlstrom Conference Center, following program

Thursday Commons: Kristina Gray Discusses Crookston's Unique Celebration of Many Ethnicities, Thursday, October 29 – Noon to 2 p.m., Bede Ballroom, Sargeant Student Center

Delta Theta Sigma Fall Children’s Carnival, Saturday, October 31 – Noon to 3 p.m., Bede Ballroom, free and open to the public

Class Schedules for Spring Semester 2016 Available, Monday, November 2

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 –**

The theme for UMC Professional Development Day on Friday, October 23, will be “Implementing New Strategies for Inclusion, Diversity, and Engagement.” While classes will be excused for the day, all faculty and staff are encouraged to attend the activities scheduled from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. in Bede Ballroom. The opening plenary session “Cultural Competency & Equity” will feature Anton Treuer, Ph.D., a professor at Bemidji State University, renowned expert on cultural and language preservation, and author of *Everything You Wanted to Know About Indians But Were Afraid to Ask*. Concurrent sessions will follow throughout the day and will explore topics including Cultural Norms, Mores, and Tradition; Integrating Cultural Competency into the Classroom and Curriculum; Plagiarism and Collectivism; Examining Bias; the Muslim Student Experience; and Recruitment and Retention of Native, Hispanic, and Diverse Populations. Among the facilitators will be Malika Carter, Ph.D., founder of Passion4Pivot, a diversity consulting company based in Phoenix, Arizona, and Tim Denny, training specialist from Northwestern Mental Health Services.

**Academic Affairs –**

The Math, Science and Technology Department and the U of M School of Nursing will host an information session on the U of M Master of Nursing Program on Monday, October 19, from 5 to 6 p.m. in 106 Dowell Hall. Current UMC students who are looking for a career in healthcare are encouraged to learn more. Attendees are encouraged to register at [http://z.umn.edu/UMCnursing](http://z.umn.edu/UMCnursing).

**Academic Quality Improvement Program (AQIP) –**

Chancellor Wood has appointed two new members to the AQIP Steering Committee, Sean Knox, assistant football coach, and Nell DeBoer, operations supervisor for Facilities and Operations. Committee members are appointed on the basis of their functional knowledge within one of the six AQIP categories. The full committee membership includes:

- Category One, Helping Students Learn: Marcella Melby and Stacie Varnson
- Category Two, Meeting Students and Other Key Stakeholder Needs: Sean Knox and Lisa Samuelson
- Category Three, Valuing Employees: Les Johnson
- Category Four, Planning and Leading: Kevin Thompson
- Category Five, Knowledge Management & Resource Stewardship: Jeff Sperling
- Category Six, Quality Overview: Nell DeBoer
- AQIP Coordinator/Accreditation Liaison Officer Sue Erickson (ex officio)
- Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs Barbara Keinath (ex officio)

**Reminders:**

AQIP Action Project Proposals are due to Sue Erickson by October 15, 2015. Members of the Higher Learning Commission (HLC) will visit the Crookston campus November 9 – 11 as part of the reaffirmation of UMC’s accreditation.
The Clothesline Project, a national art project and memorial to the victims and survivors of domestic violence, will be on display Tuesday and Wednesday, October 13 and 14, from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. in Bede Ballroom, rooms A and B. Added this year will be a role playing activity called "Chutes and Ladders" that helps illustrate the choices victims of domestic violence make when they are deciding how to respond to abuse. Polk County Coordinated Victim Services will facilitate the Chutes and Ladders exercise from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Tuesday, October 13, only. The display and related activities are sponsored by UMC Student Health, the Office of Community Engagement, Polk County Coordinated Victim Services, and Community Health, Inc.

The Admissions Office will host an open house for the campus community on Wednesday, October 14, from 2 to 3:30 p.m. in its new location, Suite A, Owen Hall. Faculty and staff are invited to see the new space. Light snacks and refreshments will be served.

Fall Semester Convocation will be held Thursday, October 15, at 12:30 p.m. in Kiehle Auditorium. Crookston Student Association (CSA) President Tareyn Stomberg will serve as emcee. The featured guest speaker will be Shannon Stassen, city administrator for Crookston. Vice Chancellor Barbara Keinath and Chancellor Fred Wood will recognize student academic achievement; the Residential Life Highest GPA Award and CSA "of the Month" awards will be presented; and varsity coaches will recognize their respective teams and deliver season updates. Music will be provided by the UMC Band and UMC Choir. The event is sponsored by CSA.

Singer/songwriter Ella Mae will perform as part of the Music on Monday series on October 19 from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. in the Northern Lights Lounge, Sargeant Student Center. Hailing from the small town of Walhalla, South Carolina, she began writing and performing her own songs at age seven. In 2014 she won first prize for her song “This Is What It Feels Like” in the Unsigned Artist category, as well as honorable mention for Best Country Song, “His Name Was Sam,” from the 2014 International Songwriting Competition.

Tara Conner, who was crowned Miss America in 2006, will speak about her struggle with chemical dependency and how she achieved sobriety Wednesday, October 21, at 7 p.m. in Kiehle Auditorium. The event is free and open to the public. It highlights National Collegiate Alcohol Awareness Week on campus. Conner’s appearance is sponsored by several UMC units, including the Chancellor’s Office; Residential Life; Alcohol, Tobacco, and Other Drugs (ATOD) Program; Student Programming and Activities for Campus Entertainment (SPACE); the Honors Program; and Career and Counseling Services, and by RiverView Health Recovery Center and the Crookston Police Auxiliary Association.

Diversity, Inclusion, and Engagement –

UMC’s Office of Diversity and Multicultural Programs and the Office of Admissions will host “Dream, Achieve, Succeed! Tools and Resources to Help You Navigate the Dream Act and Immigration Law” on Saturday, October 17, from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. in Bede Ballroom, Sargeant Student Center. The event is free and open to the public. Speakers will include Ginny Dobbs of the Minnesota Office of Higher Education and Marta Castanon of the Immigration Law Center in Moorhead. A presentation will be offered by the Office of Admissions, and campus tours will be available. The event will also feature free lunch for attendees, Spanish language translators/interpreters, financial aid assistance, door prizes and giveaways, Fresh Voices in Progress digital art, and free child care. Contact Lorna Hollowell for more information, 218-281-8580, lhollowe@umn.edu. Additional sponsors include the Minnesota Department of Education, In Progress-FreshVoices, Immigrant Law Center, Community Health Services Inc., Cultures United-CHS, and Sodexo/UMC Dining Services.
Thursday Commons on October 29 will feature Kristina Gray presenting “Crookston's Unique Celebration of Many Ethnicities” from Noon to 2 p.m. in Bede Ballroom, Sargeant Student Center. Crookston has had many people and cultures contribute to its story, from its historic past and formation in the 1870s up to the present. The Native Americans (Sioux and Chippewa), French Canadians, Scots, Irish, and French were some of the first, followed by the Germans, Norwegians, and Swedes. Once known as the Queen City of the North, it is still a town to celebrate much ethnic diversity. Gray, an adjunct faculty member at UMC and an active member of the Polk County Historical Society, has published information on the history of Crookston and the surrounding region.

Center for Adult Learning –

Nan (Wright) Thurston has been hired by the Center for Adult Learning as a student service professional. Her role includes work with students, faculty, and staff to assist in recruitment strategies of current and new online academic and non-traditional programs at UMC as well as online student support. She is a graduate of UMC with a Bachelor of Science degree in management. She began her duties at UMC on October 1.

Development & Alumni –

Brandy Chaffee has been hired as the director of development and alumni relations for the University of Minnesota Crookston. She comes to UMC after a two-year stint at the University of North Dakota Alumni Association and Foundation, with a primary focus on the College of Arts and Sciences. She also served as public relations and marketing manager for the Grand Forks Park District and Choice Health and Fitness, the latter for which she played an instrumental leadership role in fundraising and sponsorship development. Chaffee holds a B.S. in sport and recreation management from UMC and a certificate in fundraising training from the Impact Institute. She will formally begin her responsibilities at UMC on November 2.

The annual Torch & Shield Recognition will be held Wednesday, October 28, with reception and registration at 5 p.m., in Bede Ballroom, Sargeant Student Center; program at 6 p.m., Bede Ballroom; and dinner (by invitation) following program in Brown Dining Room, Sahlstrom Conference Center. The program will showcase the Crookston campus, celebrate its students, recognize Presidents Club members, honor donors, and celebrate the 2015 Torch & Shield Award recipients. For more information, contact Sue Dwyer at 218-281-8401 or at sdwyer@umn.edu.

University Relations –

The University of Minnesota recently launched the latest Driven to Discover advertising campaign focused on how the University transforms lives across the world. This multimedia, statewide campaign asks “what drives” faculty members across the U of M system to solve big problems and seek answers through their various research activities. The campaign is the first to include all five campuses in the print, TV, and online ads. Each ad links to a campaign website – www.umn.edu/discover – with stories about the researchers highlighted in each ad. On November 1, a series of billboards across the state will showcase more of these examples, and the statewide campuses will be included in this effort. For the Crookston campus, Associate Professor Venu Mukku’s ongoing research on finding plant-based substances with anti-microbial properties will be featured on a billboard to be located in northwest Minnesota (the exact location is being finalized at
this time). It will feature the question “What drives Dr. Mukku to think purple-headed sneezeweed can treat illness?”

**Center for Sustainability –**

Last spring staff members planted the Allen and Freda Pedersen Garden, located on the north edge of campus, to provide fresh produce to dining services at the University of Minnesota Crookston. **This fall a total of 7,187.65 pounds of produce and 1,245 ears of sweet corn were harvested from the garden.** This produce is being used by Dining Services in the food selection available to the campus community in Brown Dining Room. Additionally, some produce was recently seeded in the new high tunnel located just east of the Production Horticulture Building.

**Campus and Community**

**Crookston Community Theatre will present "Cat on a Hot Tin Roof" by Tennessee Williams Thursday, October 15; Friday, October 16; and Saturday, October 17, at 7:30 p.m. nightly in Kiehle Auditorium.** Tickets are $12 per person and are available at Montague's Flower Shop in Crookston as well as at the door. Admission is free for UMC students who show their UCard Student ID (courtesy of Concerts and Lectures). This production contains mature language and themes.

**University of Minnesota System**

**On October 12, faculty and staff members systemwide are scheduled to receive via email this year's Employee Engagement (E2) Survey from the Hay Group, an external vendor.** Now in its third year, the E2 survey provides important data to focus the University’s workplace improvement efforts at each of the five campuses of the U of M system. The survey results will be made available in early 2016 so local-level departments can begin developing their employee engagement action plans. All University of Minnesota employees are strongly encouraged to complete the survey. Survey responses are confidential, and the survey should take only about 10 minutes to complete.

**Student Stories**

**Mariam Maiga**, a recent UMC graduate with a B.S. in software engineering (her second degree from UMC), has found that her passion lies working with technology. Last spring, she and fellow software engineering major, Senior Shaun Curtis, spent time using immersive visualization technology to build a 3D model of Dowell Hall. Maiga continued the project over the summer during her internship, and this fall, is assisting program director Associate Professor Sameer AbuFardah in the lab. Learn more at [http://news.crk.umn.edu/news/degree-software-engineering-perfect-fit-mariam-maiga](http://news.crk.umn.edu/news/degree-software-engineering-perfect-fit-mariam-maiga).

**Maggie Perrel**, a sophomore from New Germany, Minn., and a member of the Golden Eagle Volleyball Team, had to leave UMC in order to discover it was really the right place for her. Now back on the Crookston campus, she credits Associate Professor Brian Dingmann for helping her make the decision to return. Learn more at [http://www.goldeneaglesports.com/news/2015/10/7/WVB_1007153306.aspx](http://www.goldeneaglesports.com/news/2015/10/7/WVB_1007153306.aspx).
Accolades

UMC’s 2015 Homecoming royalty were crowned during coronation on Tuesday, October 6, 2015. Selected through a vote by the student body, Karcyn Pleune, a senior, equine science major, from Borup, Minn., was named homecoming queen, and Brett Carlson, a senior, natural resources management major, from Deer River, Minn., was named homecoming king. Other members of the 2015 Homecoming Court included Alexis Khoshaba, a senior, sport and recreation management major from Vancouver, B.C., Canada; Stan Harvey, a junior, ag business management major, from Long Prairie, Minn.; Kristi Larson, a senior, sport and recreation management major, from New Ulm, Minn.; Austin Strukel, a senior, business management major, from Virginia, Minn.; Keith Yorek, a senior, animal science major, from Little Falls, Minn.; Trina Weisel, a junior, elementary education major, from Alexandria, Minn.; Kevin Larson, a senior, sport and recreation management major, from New Ulm, Minn.; and Traeyn Stomberg, a junior, animal science and ag business double major, from Menahga, Minn.

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