From The Vice Chancellor

Have you heard? The Higher Learning Commission will conduct its Comprehensive Quality Review of the University of Minnesota Crookston next week!

After months of preparation, the visit is finally at hand. The team of four Peer Reviewers will begin its meetings with us on Monday at 10 a.m. By Wednesday noon, they will have met with dozens of UMC faculty, staff, and students. They will have read the materials in the Resource Room, and they will have begun to organize their thoughts and recommendations in a draft report.

The Comprehensive Quality Review (CQR) precedes the Higher Learning Commission’s decision on UMC’s Reaffirmation of Accreditation, a decision that occurs every eight years for Academic Quality Improvement Program (AQIP institutions). According to the Higher Learning Commission,

During the CQR, peer reviewers draw information from the institution’s previous Systems Portfolio, the CQR Quality Highlights Report, and other institutional documents to determine if the Criteria are being met. The CQR is one portion of the comprehensive evaluation for institutions in the AQIP Pathway.

The CQR serves to:
• Provide evidence that the institution is meeting the Criteria for Accreditation.
• Facilitate the institution’s continuing quality improvement commitment.
• Identify actions taken to minimize identified Strategic Issues.
• Review how Action Projects are integrated into an institution’s overall performance improvement strategies.
• Review distance and/or correspondence education delivery, if applicable.

In other words, the CQR is the Higher Learning Commission’s opportunity to verify that we continue to meet the Criteria for Accreditation and help us advance on our continuous improvement efforts.

The team’s meetings will cover a variety of topics, including assessment of student learning, academic program review, leadership for continuous improvement, shared governance, compliance with federal regulations, strategic planning, employee engagement, academic support, co-curricular learning, institutional leadership and communication, and data processes and metrics. Calendar requests have been sent to faculty and staff for specific meetings.
Also scheduled are two open sessions, one for faculty and instructional staff and one for all employees:
- Faculty Drop-In Session, Tuesday, 1 to 3 p.m., in Bede Ballroom, Rooms A & B
- Employee Engagement and Valuing People Open Meeting, Tuesday, 3 to 4 p.m., in Bede Ballroom, Rooms A & B

The Crookston Student Association full board is scheduled to meet with the Peer Reviewers on Monday from 3 to 4 p.m.

Please attend the relevant open sessions and the sessions for which you have received meeting invitations. Peer Reviewers will likely have questions to get the conversations started. Be forthcoming and open in your responses. This is their chance to learn from us and our chance to learn from them.

You’ll also notice over the next few days that the UMC mission, vision, and values posters across campus have been refreshed with updated photos and the more comprehensive equal opportunity statement. It’s always a good idea to review these as a reminder of why we are all here.

Extend our Peer Review team a warm UMC welcome. And wear your name tag!

Barbara Keinath
Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs
University of Minnesota Crookston

**Featured Events & Activities**

**Employee Health and Benefits Fair, Wednesday, November 4** – 11 a.m. to 1 p.m., Bede Ballroom, Sargeant Student Center

**What’s on Wednesday (W.O.W.): Comedian Greg Wilson, Wednesday, November 4** – 7 p.m., Kiehle Auditorium, (content is intended for college age students and adults)

**Thursday Commons: Assessment Workshop, Thursday, November 5** – 12:30 to 2 p.m., Bede Ballroom, Sargeant Student Center

**UMC Hosts Minnesota State High School League Girls’ Volleyball Section 8A Finals, Friday, November 6** – 7 p.m., Lysaker Gymnasium, UMC Sports Center

**Admissions Saturday Visit for Prospective Students and Their Families, Saturday, November 7** – 10:30 a.m., check-in at UMC Admissions Office, Owen Hall Suite A

**UMC Men’s Basketball Hosts Junior Eagle Day Clinic, Saturday, November 7** – 8:30 a.m. registration, 9 to 10:30 a.m. clinic, Lysaker Gymnasium, UMC Sports Center, free, intended for boy and girls in grades 2-6.

**UMC Alumni Association Board Meeting, Thursday, November 12** – 6 p.m., 116 Kiehle Building

**UMC Jazz Band Concert, Friday, November 13** – 9 p.m. to Midnight, Crookston VFW, 121 N. Main, Crookston, no cover charge, freewill donations accepted

**UMC Jazz Band Concert, Saturday, November 14** – 7 to 9 p.m., Crookston VFW, 121 N. Main, Crookston, no cover charge, freewill donations accepted
Music on Monday Featuring Lakin, Monday, November 16 – 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m., Northern Lights Lounge, Sargeant Student Center, free

Open Forum: “Crookston as a College Town,” Tuesday, November 17 – 5:30 to 7 p.m. in Bede Ballroom, Sargeant Student Center, open to all interested members of the campus and local community

Thanksgiving Holiday, Thursday, November 26 – classes excused, campus offices closed

Floating Holiday, Friday, November 27 – 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 –

An assessment workshop for all faculty members will be held during Thursday Commons on Thursday, November 5, from 12:30 to 2 p.m. in the Prairie Room, Sargeant Student Center. The workshop will feature departmental assessment plans, Campus Labs, and preparation for the HLC visit next week. Members of the Assessment Committee will facilitate the session.

Academic Affairs –

On October 9, 2015, the Minnesota State Board of Teaching granted initial program approval to the U of M Crookston for teacher licensure in two additional areas: Teachers of Agriculture Education and Teacher Coordinator of Work Based Learning for Agriculture Education. UMC will provide program review updates by June 2016 to receive "continuous" approval every two years (program reviews are held every two years). With this approval, UMC's major in agriculture education, which was approved by the U of M Board of Regents in February 2015, is now officially active to enroll students. The major has three areas of emphasis from which students may select: agricultural science, agricultural systems engineering technology, and natural and managed environmental education. Learn more. http://news.crk.umn.edu/news/agricultural-education-major-returns-u-m-crookston

Student Affairs –

Comedian and TV personality Greg Wilson will perform his unique blend of interactive comedy on Wednesday, November 4, at 7 p.m. in Kiehle Auditorium. Wilson has appeared on VH1, TruTv, MTV, TLC, ABC Radio, and is a popular headliner of comedy clubs, festivals, and casinos across the country. He is a current cast member of the hit cable show "World's Dumbest..." on TruTV. His comedy includes adult themes and is intended for a college age audience. The performance is sponsored by S.P.A.C.E. (Student Programming and Activities for Campus Entertainment).
Singer/songwriter Lakin will perform as part of the Music on Monday Series on Monday, November 16, from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. in the Northern Lights Lounge, Sargeant Student Center. The performance is free. Lakin grew up in an entertainment based family in Riverside, California, and went on to major in jazz studies at Long Beach State. She has cultivated a loyal fan base throughout Southern California, opening for such major acts as Sheryl Crow, Colbie Caillat, Brian McKnight, Sheila E., and Gladys Knight. Learn more at www.lakinmusic.com. The performance is sponsored by S.P.A.C.E.

Center for Adult Learning –

In November staff members from the Center for Adult Learning and the Office of Admissions will visit seven regional high schools—Clearbrook-Gonvick, Crookston, East Grand Forks, Kelliher, Red Lake County Central, Red Lake Falls, and Thief River Falls—through Impact 20/20’s College Collaborative. The primary goals are to increase the college- and career-readiness of the region's high school students and to educate high school students on regional career opportunities. The College Collaborative is a collective effort of IMPACT 20/20 and the region's five post-secondary institutions: Bemidji State University, Northland Community and Technical College, Northwest Technical College, the University of Minnesota Crookston, and White Earth Tribal and Community College. This project was initiated by the five institutions, who agreed to support this collaborative effort to improve high school and college graduation rates, college retention, and meet the talent needs of the region's employers. The leaders of all five institutions are members of the IMPACT 20/20 Leadership Council, a group of senior executives from across the region who focus on growing the economy. Anyone interested in participating in the visits to these regional high schools should contact Michelle Christopherson, director of the Center for Adult Learning, at mchristo@umn.edu or 218-281-8679.

Development & Alumni –

Give to the Max Day, the University of Minnesota's annual 24-hour online “giveathon,” is set for Thursday, November 12. To donate to U of M Crookston funds and initiatives and to help earn a match of up to $3,000, visit https://crowdfund.umn.edu/ConsiderCrookston on November 12. New this year to encourage participation and to help drive online gifts through U of M sites that day, the University of Minnesota Foundation is offering $50,000 in matching funds as prizes for U of M causes based on dollars raised and funds supported during Give to the Max Day. Learn more about these prize awards at www.give.umn.edu/GTMD2015. For more information, contact Rose Ulseth in the Office of Development & Alumni Relations at rulseth@umn.edu or 218-281-8439.

University Relations –

UMC’s updated thirty-second video ads showing the various majors available in different academic departments will, again, appear prior to feature films at the Grand Theater in Crookston, the Fosston Theater, and River Cinema 15 in East Grand Forks. Ads for each of the four academic departments will rotate on a monthly basis November 2016 through April 2016. The updated ads are also posted on UMC’s official YouTube page: www.youtube.com/UofMCrookston.
Athletics –

The University of Minnesota Crookston Western Equestrian Team earned High Point Team honors during a pair of home shows at the University Teaching and Outreach Center on Saturday, October 24, and Sunday, October 25. Rider Chloe Nelson, a senior from Little Falls, Minn., earned High Point Rider honors Saturday as well as Reserve High Point Rider honors during Sunday's competition. Learn more. www.goldeneaglesports.com/news/2015/10/26/EQUESTW_1026152903.aspx

The Golden Eagle Women’s Soccer Team wrapped up its 2015 season with a 2-1 home loss to St. Cloud State, on Sunday, November 1. The conference loss sets the Golden Eagles’ NSIC record at 7-8 conference, 7-10-1 overall. The seven conference wins total is a program best as is the 21 points earned in the NSIC standings, but the team fell one point short of the eighth and final spot in the 2015 NSIC championship tournament. With the team’s final record, 2015 marks the fourth straight year of improvement for the UMC program, all under the leadership of Head Soccer Coach Joe Alianiello.

The National Fastpitch Coaches Association (NFCA) has announced its NFCA All-America Scholar-Athlete individual and team awards for the 2015 season, and the UMC Golden Eagle Softball Team is well represented as eight individuals earned awards and the team landed in 15th spot among NCAA Division II teams. UMC accumulated a team grade point average (GPA) of 3.499 for fall 2014/spring 2015 semesters. Eight Golden Eagle student-athletes earned individual honors by maintaining a year-long GPA of 3.50 or better to be recognized as an NFCA All-America Scholar-Athlete: Victoria Bayliss, Bailey Braatz, Kaylin Beatty, Jordyn Derflinger, Allison Foley, Kristi Larson, Josee Plante, and Brooke Vatthauer.

The Golden Eagle Women’s Basketball Team has been picked to finish fourth in the Northern Sun Intercollegiate Conference (NSIC) Preseason Coaches’ Poll. The ranking is the highest the Golden Eagles have earned in a preseason coaches’ poll. They were also slotted second in the NSIC North, being narrowly edged out by St. Cloud State University. In addition to the team ranking, UMC senior forward Katrina (Moenkedick) Nordick was selected as the NSIC North Preseason Player of the Year, another first for the Golden Eagles. Nordick averaged 14.5 points and 6.8 rebounds en route to an All-NSIC First Team nod as a junior. In addition, last season she helped her team to the Sanford Health/NSIC Women’s Basketball Tournament in Sioux Falls, S.D. Nordick became the ninth player to surpass 1,000 points in campus history during her junior season. She currently has 1,078 points, ranking sixth all-time, and has 503 career rebounds. Learn more. www.goldeneaglesports.com/news/2015/10/21/WBB_1021154629.aspx

University of Minnesota System

Nominations are sought for the annual President’s Community-Engaged Faculty Scholar Award. This systemwide award recognizes one faculty member or one academic professional and administrative (P&A) employee for exemplary community-engaged scholarship in his or her field of inquiry. Each college on the Twin Cities campus and the campuses of Crookston, Duluth, Morris, and Rochester may select one individual to serve as the unit’s award recipient. All collegiate/campus award recipients then become eligible for the U-wide award, which includes a one-time $15,000 prize. Nominations must go through the appropriate college contact. Nominations are due January 22, 2016. Learn more. www.engagement.umn.edu/presidents-community-engaged-scholar-award
Campus and Community

The public is invited to learn how to transform an idea into a business during an informational meeting about the IDEA Competition, scheduled for Wednesday, November 4, from Noon to 1 p.m. at RBJ’s Restaurant in Crookston. The annual IDEA Competition provides training, business coaching, and capital to participating entrepreneurs who want to turn an idea into a business. The meeting is sponsored by the Center for Rural Entrepreneurial Studies and the University of Minnesota Crookston. For more information, contact Rachel Lundbohm at rlundbohm@umn.edu or 218-281-8190.

UMC Enactus and the Crookston Campus-Community Connection (C4) will host an open forum on “Crookston as a College Town” on Tuesday, November 17, from 5:30 to 7 p.m. in Bede Ballroom, Sargeant Student Center. All interested members of the campus and local community, including UMC students, are invited to take part and share their thoughts as the group discusses what services and characteristics make Crookston a college town, and what it might offer or improve in order to appeal to and attract students. Light hors d’oeuvres will be served.

Student Stories

If Kathryn Sheetz, a health sciences major from Grand Rapids, Minn., could be summed in a single sentence, it would be this: “Actions will speak louder than words.” The senior radiates a kind of quiet confidence that seems to course through everything she does. And, she does a lot. Sheetz has been a part of research projects in the classroom and outside as well. Learn more. http://news.crk.umn.edu/news/senior-kathryn-sheetz-focused-great-finish

Coming from a vibrant and rushing city, sophomore Van Dang was in for a surprise when she arrived in Crookston. Coming from halfway across the globe, she arrived this fall to pursue her degree in health management following in the footsteps of other family members and their health related careers. Originally from Ho Chi Minh City in Vietnam, she decided to take a huge leap by moving to the U.S., and she says it was a good choice, seeing as she has family here and enjoys travelling around the country. Learn more. http://news.crk.umn.edu/news/vietnam-crookston-van-takes-world-storm

Sierra Trost, a junior from Ham Lake, Minn., majoring in biology, has first-hand experience with the devastation of Alzheimer’s in her family and she wants to put a stop to it. She’s been inspired to create a non-profit organization to raise money to help find a cure for the disease. Learn more. http://www.goldeneaglesports.com/news/2015/11/3/WVB_1103152258.aspx

Accolades

Professor Rachel McCoppin, Ph.D., professor, Liberal Arts and Education Department, recently had her book The Lessons of Nature in Mythology published by McFarland & Company, Incorporated Publishers. The book is an examination of myths from around the world with a focus on the role nature plays within mythology.

The Wildlife Society’s Jim McDonough Award was recently presented to Associate Professor John Loegering, Ph.D., who teaches in the Agriculture and Natural Resources Department. The award recognizes a certified wildlife biologist who is a member of The Wildlife Society (TWS) and who has made or is making a significant contribution to the wildlife profession by being an active member/participant of TWS, especially at local levels (i.e., chapter and section). Loegering guided the formation of the University of Minnesota Crookston Student
Chapter of TWS and has been the advisor for 15 years. He was the faculty co-chair for the 2014 North Central Conclave of The Wildlife Society. He has also chaired several workshops on wildlife careers at the National and Section conferences as well as served on many Minnesota Department of Natural Resources committees and advisory groups.

The University of Minnesota Crookston has been ranked among the “Top 10 Most Affordable Online Colleges” in the country for 2016 by Affordable Colleges Online, an online resource. The organization determines it rankings through work with data analysts and college experts to develop a proprietary scoring system that ranks public and private not-for-profit colleges based on various cost-to-quality criteria and metrics. See the full listing and learn more at www.affordablecollegesonline.org/cheap-online-colleges.

The University of Minnesota Crookston’s Bachelor of Science program in finance has been named among the “Top 10 Online Bachelor of Finance Degree Programs” by OnlineSchoolsCenter.com. The organization, created by chief editor Linda Weems, serves as a resource for business professionals and those seeking online educational options. See the full listing and learn more at www.onlineschoolscenter.com/top-10-online-bachelor-of-finance-degree-programs. UMC’s online finance degree also made the list “Best Online Finance Degree for 2015-16” as ranked by Affordable Colleges Online, another online resource: www.affordablecollegesonline.org/degrees/finance-programs.

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