

**University of Minnesota, Crookston
Intercollegiate Athletic Commitment
Athletic Director Stephanie Helgeson
January 10, 2007**

- It is a very exciting day today for our Golden Eagle athletic program at the University of Minnesota, Crookston; I am prepared, along with our coaches and athletic staff, to advance our intercollegiate program and have the opportunity to build excellence and standing in Division II. I know that our student-athletes will be enthusiastic about the University's commitment to invest and we will work diligently together to make our program successful and competitive in this premiere national conference.
- Anytime that you invest in a program, you expect significant outcomes; we will establish substantial goals and objectives and accountability will be a reality.
- The Chancellor and University are providing renewed commitment and support and we will respond in kind – so now the real work begins for me, the coaches, our marketing/promotions and fundraising staff to help generate more private support for our programs.
- Plans have been outlined for a 3-year period detailing priority investments across-the-board for all sports program, including staffing for the department.
- As the Chancellor stated, we have developed plans for a priority investment in our football program, we plan to hire coaches; increase scholarships and augment operating dollars.
- Ongoing discussions focus on strengthening our scholarship offerings in other areas. This will support our recruitment and retention efforts.
- Again, accountability will be a reality in all of our program areas, and we are well aware that it does take some time to build a successful program. However, we know that some results will be immediate – including providing an enhanced experience for our student athletes through facilities improvements and staff support. Recruitment and retention will also be enhanced.
- As for our hockey program, we are very pleased about moving forward with this very popular program and working to remain a member of the MCHA. With the conference moving to eight teams that does help our position and the conference with scheduling, and we are in constant communication with the commissioner.
- Again, it is a GREAT DAY FOR GOLDEN EAGLE ATHLETICS and we look forward to the road that lies ahead. We want to take the University of Minnesota, Crookston athletic program into the future with excellence and the opportunity to compete for national championships. We are excited – for our students and alumni, our fans and the community.