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"Two Plus Two" Program Provides Opportunities For B.S. Degrees In Turf Management And Horticulture

Recently two new articulation agreements were formed between Anoka-Hennepin Technical College (AHTC) and the University of Minnesota, Crookston. Students may now transfer their two-year degree programs from AHTC to the University of Minnesota, Crookston and complete a Bachelor of Science degree in two more years.

In other words, the two new articulation agreements between Anoka-Hennepin Technical College and UMC make horticulture and turf programs at AHTC a springboard to bachelor's degrees. An associate's degree in Landscape and Nursery Technology can become part of a bachelor's degree in Plant Industries Management at UMC. Either an associate's degree or diploma in Golf Course Grounds Management at Anoka-Hennepin will transfer into a bachelor's program in Golf Facilities and Turf Systems Management at UMC.

In these two cases, students complete their bachelor's degrees at the Crookston campus, rather than in the Twin Cities area. Richard Robinson, chair of the horticulture department at Anoka-Hennepin, said two students have already signed up for the UMC program and more are interested.

"This is an exciting new opportunity for students to link up with a four-year degree program," said Dr. Linda Lucas, academic dean at Anoka-Hennepin. "It's also a great recruiting tool because we can show high school students and their parents how an interest in technical programs can result in a bachelor's degree close to home."

The new pact is called an articulation agreement, meaning an agreement under which credits from different institutions are mutually accepted towards a degree. Officials from UMC and Anoka-Hennepin TC met May 11 to celebrate the signing of the agreement.

UMC Chancellor Don Sargeant says articulation agreements allow students from the technical and community colleges to enter "in a seamless manner." Sargeant says faculty work closely with business and industry to ensure that the curriculum meets their needs. UMC is the only higher education institution in Minnesota known as a polytechnic university.

This is the first venture by UMC in the Twin Cities area. Crookston is one of three outstate campuses of the U of M. Others are at Duluth and Morris.

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(More information is available from the Admissions Office at Anoka-Hennepin Technical College, 763-576-4850 or info@ank.tec.mn.us, or Shelley Diment, Twin Cities coordinator for UMC, at 651-303-3987, or www.crk.umn.edu/ce/mmc