



# University Staff Council Newsletter

Issue 7: Fall Semester 2020

## A Note from the Chair

Here we are welcoming in another new academic year! However, this fall is very different than what we have seen in the past. Who would have imagined the changes in our everyday lives and how a pandemic has affected every single one of us. People say this is our “new normal”, but I like to consider it temporary change. We are resilient and will find a way to continue with life but doing things a bit different. We have been fortunate not to see mass furloughs or layoffs at UWL as seen by other universities in Wisconsin or nationwide. During these constantly changing times we are the people who are getting things done on the ground level by making sure we have PPE in place, cleaning/disinfecting, organizing our academic depts., collecting garbage, policing our campus, making sure our technology is working and answering COVID emails/telephone calls, just to name a few. Thank you for everything you do each and every day. I am honored to be a University Staff colleague and wish you all the best to stay safe and healthy as we continue this semester!

*Becky Yoshizumi, University Staff Council – Chair*

## Get Involved with USC



to a council member if you have questions about the meetings.

### Attend a meeting!

Get involved by coming to a meeting; talk with your supervisor about coverage and then just show up virtually! Reach out

## Meet Your Current University Staff Council *unmasked photo from 2019*



*Back Row:* Dave Pohnl, Ben Kolpitcke, Tom Fell and Kim Schliebe

*Middle Row:* Neng Lee, Michelle Edge, Karen DeSchepper, Justin Bolstad, Brandon Harris and Domingo Carrion

*Front Row:* Nouchi Lor, Britney Heineman and Becky Yoshizumi

**Our 2020 election season was put on hold until the next election cycle in 2021. We were and continue to be in unprecedented times. The council continues with the current 2019 term and membership.** (If you know you fall under the **"professional" category** and may be interested in filling the remaining term of council member, Brandon Harris, Please contact a council member)

### Meetings

The Council meets the 2nd Tuesday of each month from 2-3 pm. Meetings are virtual, watch your email for the link. Meetings are open to all university staff. Come hear what is happening with UWL and the council.

## USC Rotary Lights 2020

USC will again be participating in Rotary Lights which goes from Thanksgiving to New Year's Day at Riverside Park. Volunteer opportunities for lights and park setup, USC tree setup and teardown. Stay tuned.



**SAVE THE DATE!** USC will again be collecting non-perishable food donations for the community food drive (which benefits our very own UWL Food Pantry!) stay tuned for dates. Drop-off sites in Centennial, Graff, Mitchell, Morris, Wimberly and Wing.

## Recap of Spring/Summer 2020

**University Staff Excellence Milestones**



The University Staff Excellence Breakfast traditionally awards university staff that reach five-year service milestones. This year the breakfast was cancelled due to the pandemic. Listed here are the milestone achievers.

**20 years:** Krista Shulka, Karen DeSchepper, Steven Mallay, Randall Amundson.

**15 years:** Julie Puent Nelson, Sue Gates, Diane Clayton, Scott Reed, Carol Beckerjeck.

**10 years:** Marie, Rieber, Matthew Hackner, Brandon Harris, Jeremiah Collins, Susan Hall.

**5 years** Scott Konze, Roxanne Prenatt, Bee Lor, Thomas Phelps, Angela Wiste, Larry Peterson, Christal Fortun.



Congratulations to all who celebrated milestones!



## Employee Enrichment Day

The 7th annual Employee Enrichment Day on campus was cancelled due to the pandemic.

Employee Enrichment Day, is a professional development opportunity free and open to all UWL employees. The committee is planning to reconvene in January to re-assess our current situation and options for Summer 2021. We would like to hear from fellow employees on any ideas they may have for topics/break out speakers. They can reach out to any of the committee members with ideas. Brad Quarberg, Tammy Haakenson, Marie Rieber, AJ Clauss, Janet Craig, Michelle Edge, Karen McGarvey, Vicky Tran or Becky Yoshizumi.

## US Excellence Award

The University Staff Excellence Award is given annually to a member of the University Staff who has shown excellence in performance, personal interaction, initiative and creativity. The recipient has supported the university and its mission through positive interaction with the university and the community.



Kathy Thoen was this year's recipient of the University Staff Excellence Award! You can read more about her and the award [here](#):

The University Staff Excellence Committee is all about recognition. The committee assists in organizing an annual breakfast to recognize 5-year milestones for University Staff and gives an annual award to an exceptional university staff member to recognize the work they do for UWL.

US Excellence Committee Members: Michelle Edge, Jeanne Voss, Amy Servais, Beth Naas and Kim Schliebe

## USC Showcase: on hold

We had planned to tour the stadium Spring 2020. The pandemic had other plans for us. Looking forward to Spring 21.



These events are put together by the Programs, Grants & Fundraising

Committee: Karen DeSchepper (chair), Ben Cornforth, Angela House, Britney Heineman, Ingrid Iverson, and Becky Yoshizumi



## Upcoming Events & Opportunities

### Professional Development Grant Update

**GRANT DEADLINES: October 1; February 1; June 1**  
[Applications](#) are currently being accepted for the **2020 Spring University Staff Council (USC) Professional Development Grant program.**

**The submission deadline is October 1, 2020.**

*Submissions are for professional development events that occur **November through February 2020.***

Instructions on how to apply can be found on the USC website: [www.uwlax.edu/university-staff-council/university-staff-professional-development-grant](http://www.uwlax.edu/university-staff-council/university-staff-professional-development-grant). A sample of the application is available to help you in preparing answers before completing the official Qualtrics application survey.

USC is eager to put these dollars to work to improve the skills and industry awareness of University Staff. This program is just one more way that USC is adhering to the Sustaining Excellence priority of Investing in Our People. These grant funds can be used to bring a speaker to campus or attend non-credit training, conferences, seminars, etc. that will improve an employee's ability to do their job. (Due to COVID19 and the freeze on non-essential travel for UWL, this will limit many opportunities to virtual learning.) More information about this program is available on the website. Applications will be reviewed by a committee, and awards will be granted at the discretion of the committee. Awards will be dependent upon monies available and number of eligible applicants.



## Employee Educational Assistance Program

Don't forget we also have the Employee Educational Assistance Program available through the university. Reimbursements are available for job-related and for career-related courses.

More detailed information about the program can be found [here](#)

## Timely Warning Procedure - Get registered with RAVE

This system is used on campus to record, send and track personalized messages to thousands of residents in minutes. This system was used when the university pivoted from online classes to remote learning due to the COVID19. If you would like to add a personal telephone number or email address to the system, go to the [Police Dept website](#) under the "Emergency Management" link and then "Emergency response plan" and you will see the link for RAVE.



## Did you know that.....

- Pay plan 2% increase in January
- [Open Enrollment](#)
- [ETF Webinars](#) Learn about your benefits