



# University Staff Council Newsletter

Issue 2: Spring semester 2018

## A note from the Chair

Hello University Staff,

University Staff Council has been busy over the past 8 months. We've introduced a CPR Training Program, created a Facebook page, worked with other shared governance groups to find a solution for no cost menstrual product machines, supported the budgeting plan that includes an increase in pay for our lowest earners, a 1% base increase to those who did not receive it last fiscal year, and the Education Assistance Program for tuition reimbursement. On top of that, we are now unveiling our Professional Development Grant Program. Wow, I feel honored to be part of this council that is truly taking action to improve life for employees at UWL. We will continue to work on improving the programs we offer and creating new ones that will make UWL a better place to work.

The programs offered by USC define what the council thinks is best for University Staff, but if you have ideas



for new programs or even constructive criticism of the existing programs, please share them with us. Or, even better, participate with us by attending a council meeting, joining a committee, or even running for a seat on the council. We need you and your contributions!

Two of my goals for my term as Chair are to improve employee morale and increase engagement between University Staff and USC. What I've learned is that the two are interrelated inasmuch that improved employee morale can only be achieved by increased participation of our staff. Morale is not something that can be given or applied; morale is interactive. We can make UWL the best place to work if we work together. Help us help you!

*Brandon Harris, University Staff Council – Chair*

## Meet Your Current University Staff Council



Back: Devyn Marazes (Vice Chair), Ben Kolpitcke,  
Middle: Megan Stauffacher (Secretary/Treasurer), Mandy Wagner  
Front: Kathy Thoen, Domingo Carrion, Brandon Harris  
Not pictured: Jeremiah Collins, Mary Grattan, Ingrid Iverson,  
Susanne Koehler, John Pieper

## Meetings

The Council meets the 2nd Tuesday of each month from 2-3 pm in 325 Graff Main Hall. Meetings are open to all university staff. Come hear what is happening with the council. Remaining spring semester meetings are April 10, May 8, and June 12.

## Get Involved with USC

**Attend a meeting!** Get involved by coming to a meeting; talk with your supervisor about office coverage and then just show up! Reach out to a council member if you have questions about the meetings. **Join a committee!** Get involved by joining a USC committee. The official call for committee membership will be emailed this summer, but if there is a committee that interests you, feel free to look online and reach out to the committee chair to ask if you can attend their next meeting. **Run for council!** Get involved by running for a seat on the council! The call for nominations went out in March and voting will start in April.

## Recap of 2017

### *University Staff Excellence*



Chancellor Gow thanks staff at the 2017 excellence breakfast

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

The University Staff Excellence Breakfast awards university staff that reach five-year service milestones and provides a delicious meal to all university staff. The 2017 breakfast was held on July 13 in the U.

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. The 2017 recipient of the excellence award was Randy Otto, Facility Maintenance Specialist in Residence Life. Read Randy's story on the [USC website](#).

**Nominations are open now for the 2018 US Excellence Award! Deadline is April 1.**

### *Spring 2017 USC Showcase: Murphy Library*

The University Staff Council, in collaboration with Murphy Library staff, hosted the building showcase in March 2017. We are fortunate to have such great resources, both physical and electronic, available to faculty and staff.

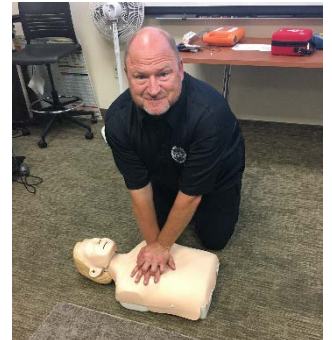


Chancellor Gow addresses the crowd at our first USC Showcase event, highlighting Murphy Library.

## Upcoming events & opportunities

### *CPR and AED training*

Are you interested in becoming certified in CPR and AED? USC will cover the \$20 cost of the CPR and AED training course offered by UWL Police Officer Dave Pehl course for all university staff members. Register for a course on the [USC website](#).



### *Spring 2018 USC Showcase: UWL Union*

A professional development and networking event



focusing on the UWL Student Union and its resources is planned for March 28th. Watch for details coming soon!

### *Employee Enrichment Day 2018*

Mark your calendar for employee enrichment day! The event is planned for Wednesday, July 18. Watch for more details!

### *University Staff Professional Development Grant*

University Staff Council is offering professional development grants to University Staff to attend professional development events including conferences, seminars and workshops. There are two grant cycles per year. The deadline for the next cycle is August 15. For more information about the grant program, visit the [USC website](#).

### *Employee Education Assistance Program*

UW-La Crosse administration approved funding for an education assistance program in December 2017. The program will reimburse eligible employees for up to five credits of coursework taken at an accredited university. Further information and the educational assistance request form can be found on the [Human Resources website](#).