



University Staff Council Newsletter

Issue 6: Spring semester 2020

A Note from the Chair

Hello Fellow University Staff,

Happy New Year and welcome to a new decade! Hard to believe we are already into the spring semester. It seems like we only started the new academic year not that long ago. As with any start of a year it brings the opportunity to make resolutions. It could be one of the more common such as getting a bit more exercise and eating healthier or it could be learning a new job skill or finally pursuing that new job. Whatever it may be, the investment in yourself is always worth the time and effort. You might need to schedule these action items into your daily calendar to help keep you on track. Making the commitment for a change can seem challenging and overwhelming for some but also very exciting or motivating to others. No matter which way you look at making a change, it is worth it. Everyone has to look out for what is best for themselves. Thanks for all you do and remember we all play an important role in making UWL the place it is today.

Becky Yoshizumi, University Staff Council – Chair

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 **March 10, April 14, May 12, and June 9.**

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 goes out in March and voting will start in April.**

Recap of Fall 2019

University Staff Excellence

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.

Becky Yoshizumi is the 2019 recipient of the excellence award. Read Becky's story on the [Campus News webpage](#).



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

Nominations are open now for the 2020 University [Staff Excellence Award](#)! Deadline is **April 1**.

Fall 2019 Activities



Rotary Lights

The University Staff Council (USC) Programs, Grants and Fundraising (PGF) committee organized our yearly involvement with Rotary Lights 2019.

iFeed



As part of this involvement, we participated in the community iFeed food drive, a one-day event where high school Interact members work toward alleviating hunger in the world and in our communities. USC gathered food donations from departments across campus to give to the iFeed event.

Through the iFeed and Rotary Lights food collections, they then make a sizable donation to our campus food pantry to assist UWL students in need.



We were also involved with park setup for Rotary Lights (this year we were on the "igloo crew"!), decorating our USC tree before Thanksgiving and tree takedown on January 1. We look forward to our 2020 involvement!



Pictured: Yong Lee, Mia Thao, Nouchi Lor, Neng Lee, Britney Heineman, Brandon Harris, Beth Naas, Bobbi Webster, Dana Schaitel, Domingo Carrion, Sue Hengel. Not pictured: Tom Fell, Leslie Fell, Ben Cornforth, Ingrid Iverson.



Pictured: Karen DeSchepper and Susanne Koehler on a cold January 1.



Pictured: Angie House, Becky Yoshizumi and Sue Hengel



USC would like to thank everyone who helped with our involvement with the Rotary Lights community service project and iFeed food drive.

Program, Grants & Fundraising Committee: Karen DeSchepper (chair), Ben Cornforth, Brandon Harris, Britney Heineman, Angie House, Ingrid Iverson and Becky Yoshizumi.

Upcoming Events & Opportunities

**Spring 2020 USC Showcase:
Thursday, April 9, 2:30 - 4 p.m.**

It is more than just bleachers!



Roger Harring Stadium at the Veterans Memorial Field Sports Complex

- Tours
- Networking
- Refreshments
- Prizes *all sports passes*

Employee Enrichment Day 2020

Seeking Input: Employee Enrichment Day

Planning for this year's Employee Enrichment Day has started and the committee would like to ask for your help. They are seeking suggestions for breakout session topics. What do you want to see? Or are you an expert in a topic and would like to share that knowledge with others during a breakout. Let them know. Send an email to any of the committee members listed at your earliest convenience: Brad Quarberg, AJ Clauss, Michelle Edge, Tammy Haakenson, Karen McGarvey, Terry Stika, Vicky Tran, Hannah Skibba, Janet Craig, Marie Rieber, Amanda Blair or Becky Yoshizumi. Tentative Employee Enrichment Day is Thursday, July 30.

SAVE THE DATE: Campus Excellence Breakfast July 16



Professional Development Grant Update

The pilot program for the USC Professional Development Grant is a success. The USC professional development grants have continued to see a strong demand. We look forward to continued support of these funds. The February 1 deadline received requests for funding totaling approximately \$11,553 of which \$5400 was awarded. The next deadline is June 1 for the July 1 – October 31 cycle.

Information about the [grants](#) can be found on the USC website



Employee Educational Assistance Program

Reimbursements are still available to employees for job and/or career related courses. FY19 saw approximately \$33,000 awarded to university staff. It is reported that FY20 is seeing the same level of activity that was experienced in FY19. A detailed report for FY20 will come out after the spring 2020 semester.

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



Jeans Day – Small donation can help a lot!

Are you looking for a way to help in our community without spending a lot of money? Jeans Day could be what you have been looking for. Yes, it is a day designated to getting to wear your blue jeans to work on the last Friday of each month in exchange for a \$1 donation. Charities are designated each month who receive the donations from everyone's \$1 donation. Remember Jeans Day is not necessarily about the jeans; but rather it is about donating to local charities. Thanks for all your continuing support for this worthwhile effort. Next Jeans Day is Friday, February 28!



Mark your calendar

- **Council meetings - March 10, April 14, May 12 and June 9.**
- **Run for council March – voting April**
- **Staff Excellence Award nominations - Due April 1**
- **USC Showcase: Veterans Memorial Field Sports Complex - April 9**
- **Employee Breakfast - July 16**
- **Employee Enrichment Day - July 30**



Volunteer Request: University Staff Representative to sit on UWL's Community Engagement Council (CEC)

The CEC serves as the primary advisory committee for UWL's Community Engagement Coordinator. The committee is composed of faculty, staff, students and community members interested in fostering collaborations between UWL and the larger community. In particular, there is a focus on fostering experiential learning and research collaborations for undergraduate and graduate students in and out of the classroom with community partners. In addition, the committee should reflect faculty/staff community involvement related to scholarship, professional development and/or service. The Community Engagement Coordinator will convene the committee at least once a semester and would provide a brief annual report on the activities to the Chancellor, VC Advancement, Provost and Faculty Senate Chair. More often reports may be required by the Strategic Planning Coordinator.

The council meets at least once a semester, but does receive email requests from Lisa Klein for thoughts and advice a couple of times each semester.

If interested in serving on this council, please email usc@uwlax.edu with a short statement (1-2 paragraphs) detailing why you would like to be part of this committee. Your self-nomination must be received by midnight on Wednesday, February 26.

Please contact Lisa Klein with any questions you have relating to this committee assignment.



- You will have access to Adobe Creative Cloud Suite summer of 2020
- You can look at TTC [job descriptions](#)
- You can go to the free [movies](#) at the Union
- Keep up with proposed changes to benefits by checking out HR's "[News and Alerts](#)" page.
- You can see what policies and procedures are under review at UW System Administration. [Click here](#) to find out.



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