



University Staff Council Newsletter

Issue 8: Spring semester 2021

A Note from the Chair

Hello Fellow University Staff,

We made it through 2020 and can already cross out the month of January 2021! As we start out this new year, I would like to re-iterate the sentiment of your University Staff Executive Committee, consisting of Britney Heineman, Kim Schliebe and myself, in expressing our sincere appreciation and thanks for everything you have done for UWL during this past and very unpredictable year. Every day continues to bring new challenges at work and home and it is not going to let up any time soon, even with a vaccine in place. We continue to rise to the occasion in order to keep the university up and running whether it is cleaning/disinfecting, maintaining buildings and grounds, administrative support, testing, tracing, etc., and the added COVID testing in order to be on campus. THANK YOU!!

If you have comments/concerns/questions as we continue to maneuver through these ongoing, challenging times, do not hesitate to reach out to your supervisor, USC Executive Committee or any of your [USC Council Members](#).

Stay well,
Becky Yoshizumi, University Staff Council – Chair

Meetings

The Council meets the 2nd Tuesday of each month virtually from 2-3 pm. Meetings are open to all university staff. Log in to hear what is happening with the council. Remaining spring semester meetings are **February 9, March 9, April 13, May 11, and June 8.**

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 2020

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. Kathy Thoen is the 2020 recipient of the excellence award. Read Kathy's story [here](#).

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. New this year is the creation of a subcommittee focused solely on the activity of recognition, "USC Recognition Committee" reach out to the Committee chair for more information!

Nominations are open now for the 2021 University Staff Excellence Award! Deadline is **April 1.**

Fall 2020 Activities

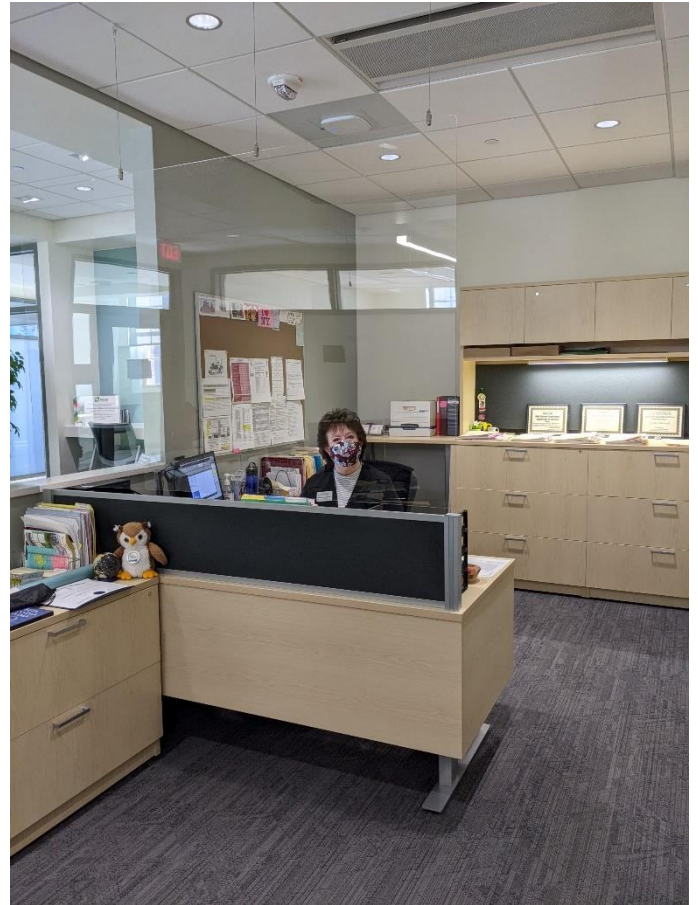
Take a look at some University Staff at work, work that doesn't stop during a pandemic! (May just look a little different.)



Facilities staff getting the 300+ hand sanitizer stations assembled and then out on campus in 1 day right before school started.

UWL Food Pantry Halloween Food Drive

This box, from the Financial Aid Office, was one of many decorated boxes that helped support the UWL Food Pantry in October. Usually, USC supports iFeed, but with the pandemic that event did not occur, so we focused on our very own UWL Food Pantry.



Corrine Rheineck, Dean Assistant, CBA



Officer Dave Pehl, Police Services

Rotary Lights

The University Staff Council (USC) Programs, Grants and Fundraising (PGF) committee organized our yearly involvement with Rotary Lights 2020.



Bobbi and Ingrid decorating our USC tree before Thanksgiving.



Lynne S., Karen D., Becky Y., Tom F. and Domingo C.



Ingrid Iverson, Karen DeSchepper, Becky Yoshizumi, and Bobbi Weber.

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



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

Upcoming Events & Opportunities

Employee COVID-19 testing for Spring 2021

Effective February 1, 2021, all employees who will be on campus at least one day a week will be required to test for COVID-19 at the BinaxNOW testing center in Cartwright Center. Testing will be required once, in every two-week period beginning on February 1, 2021. More detailed information can be found on [HR's Employee COVID-19 Testing Requirements page](#).

Take a look at the process through Britney, your Vice Chair's eyes:

1. First I'll need to register and sign up for an appointment at: doineedacovid19test.com. This site also has a handy video and PDF of [what to expect for a self-administered test!](#)

NOTE: Employees will be paid for the time needed to test and wait for their rapid test result **at the UWL BinaxNOW testing facility** on the third (3) floor of the Cartwright Center. You can test at other facilities but will need to be in charge of record keeping and may not be compensated of your time- check with HR.

2. As a UWL employee I enter at the WEST entrance of Cartwright Center and proceed to the 3rd floor. The elevator is accessible in the North Entrance vestibule. Follow the handy signs!

The West Entrance door faces Graff Main Hall and down the sidewalk from the traffic roundabout.

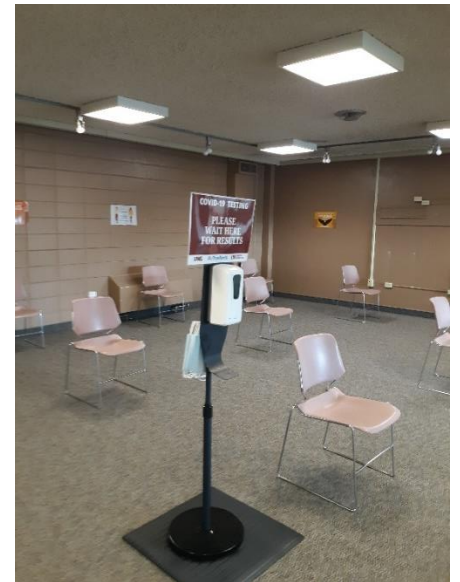
3. Upon check-in I get asked my Employee ID number- good thing I brought my Employee ID card! You can also find your number on your Earnings Statement.

4. Time to test! She explains how to swab my nostrils with the Q-Tip...it wasn't so bad!

5. I await my test results in the waiting area outside the testing room. I received an email to my UWL email about 15 minutes after testing. I follow the prompt to log back into my registration profile for my results.

I make sure to file the email notification so I can keep track of when I got tested.

Negative results mean I am good to go. Positive results will require me to head back to the front desk of Cartwright (passed them on the way in) and receive a PCR test. Make sure to take the paper handouts on the way out!



Do I Need a COVID-19 Test?

[Select Language](#)

Look for **emergency warning signs*** for COVID-19. If someone is showing any of these signs, **seek emergency medical care immediately:**

- Trouble breathing
- Persistent pain or pressure in the chest
- New confusion
- Inability to wake or stay awake
- Bluish lips or face

*This list is not all possible symptoms. Please call your medical provider for any other symptoms that are severe or concerning to you.

Call 911 or call ahead to your local emergency facility: Notify the operator that you are seeking care for someone who has or may have COVID-19.

Click here to register for a COVID-19 test.

Note: Every individual, including children, MUST be registered for their own account, in their own name. Otherwise, your test may not be processed.

Register

Logon here to view and print your lab report if you have have received an email notification that your results are available.

Get Results

Screenshot of the registration page.

In all the process went pretty smooth. All my questions and concerns were either addressed on the [HR Employee COVID-19 Testing Requirements page](#) or the [COVID-19 FAQ page](#).

Employee Enrichment Day 2021

Seeking Input: Employee Enrichment Day

What would you like to do/see/hear/attend for Employee Enrichment Day? 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, Janet Craig, Marie Rieber, Amanda Blair or Becky Yoshizumi. Employee Enrichment Day to be determined.

Funds available! Employee Educational Assistance Program

Thinking about advancing your career? The UWL Education Assistance Program is still available! Further information on the program, when and how to apply at <https://kb.uwlax.edu/103684>, and view [reimbursement rates on Business Services page](#).

We missed the FY20 summary (summer 2019-spring 2020). 6 University Staff out of 28 individuals took part in FY20. For a grand total of: \$15,301.75 which is only 16.61% of the total spent \$92,130. Please take part of this wonderful opportunity!

Professional Development Grant Update

The pilot program for the USC Professional Development Grant was a success. The USC professional development grants have continued to see a strong demand.

Submission deadline for July 1-Oct.31 is June 1.

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

Find us on [Facebook](#)

Jeans Day – Small donations 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 26!

Mark your calendar

- **Council meetings - Feb.9, March 9, April 13, May 11 and June 8.**



- **Run for council March – voting April**
- **Staff Excellence Award nominations - Due April 1**
- **Employee Breakfast - TBD**
- **Employee Enrichment Day - TBD**



• Kayak? Tent? Fat-tire bike? You can rent this gear and more through [REC's Outdoor Connection](#)

• Remember seeing an email from HR but can't find it? Check out [HR News & Updates section](#) on their webpage where they list all communications that have gone out to personnel.