MONTHLY COMMUNICATION: October 2019

UNM Staff:

After a brief hiatus during the month of September, I’m happy to be chatting with you all again! As my department was busy at the start of the Fall semester (many recruitment events take place in the first month) I assumed you, too, would be busy and would appreciate one less email to read. With that, there’s a lot to discuss related to staff at The University of New Mexico!

Advocacy and Appreciation

First, I hope you’ll help me welcome Dan Garcia as UNM’s new Vice President for Enrollment Management. Part of my role as Staff Council President is to work with administrators to find ways that staff provide partnership to achieve the University’s goals. Staff are in a unique position to be ambassadors for UNM wherever we go and to encourage the college-bound students within our orbits to look at UNM as an option. If you’d like to encourage a student to consider UNM a great way is to suggest they visit campus or to RSVP for an event!

In the last month and a half, we’ve been focusing on several things, one of which is a Tuition Remission Resolution aimed at further strengthening our non-compensatory benefits at UNM. Staff at UNM serve many unique roles. A week ago I toured the Ford Utilities Center on campus and learned about the staff who serve 24 hours a day, 365 days a year, to power UNM. They generate almost enough power to sustain the populations of Gallup, Taos and Los Lunas - combined! I also know that many people involved with our Health Sciences and in our clinics are delivering care around the clock. In my own department, recruiters are on the road for weeks at a time. All this is to say that not everyone will be able to use tuition remission in the same ways – and that’s okay. What we want to be able to do is to provide as many opportunities for staff to continue their education as possible and we want to work with campus administration to do that. If you’re considering courses at UNM, or if you’re continuing with courses, join us for Staff as Students on Monday, November 4, at 11:30 in the Ballrooms B&C in the Student Union Building.

I’d also like to mention two other resolutions passed by the Staff Council, aimed at promoting greater inclusion of staff with disabilities and providing opportunities for people with disabilities to join our ranks. These are personally important to me and we are working with campus administration to find ways to achieve the goals set forth in both resolutions. We worked in tandem with campus experts to craft intentional language and rely on sound research. I’m looking forward to sharing information with you as these progress.

I’d be remiss not to mention the Outstanding Supervisor Award recipients, and their contributions to UNM! Out of the many wonderful nominations, three stood as fantastic examples. Allow me to congratulate and honor:

- Jenna Crabb – the Director of UNM’s Office of Career Services and “has directly and indirectly impacted thousands of Lobos as a supervisor, faculty member, three-time UNM alumna (BA, MA, and PhD), and UNM staff member for the past 23 years. Her leadership has created a trusting and productive environment where the employees she hires and supervises
perform their jobs ethically, efficiently, and readily, with a sense of joy, purpose, and meaning."

- Kathy Breckenridge – an Operations Specialist from Continuous Professional Learning who is “is always willing to help her staff to succeed; whether it is training a new employee on a UNM program, rolling up her sleeves and pitching in to stuff attendee packets or badges, or working onsite so the event planner can take a break during a ten-hour day, she will say she is not the supervisor, she is a part of the team.”

- Jeanne Marquardt – an Executive Project Director in the School of Medicine and “has a keen sense of individual strengths and weaknesses that allows her to assemble a team with a diverse skillset, which is ultimately what makes any team work. Additionally, she is a person’s biggest cheerleader for anything they want to achieve, personally or professionally.”

Special thanks to President Stokes, Dr. Roth, Provost Holloway and Finance and Administration VP Teresa Constantinidis for their support of this award. Each of their offices contributes $1,000 each year to ensure that our outstanding supervisors can be honored. Thanks also to the committee who read the nominations, and to Dorothy Anderson, VP for Human Resources.

Join us for the Outstanding Supervisor Award Reception on Wednesday, October 16, from 2-3 in Ballroom C of the Student Union Building. All are welcome.

Closing Thoughts

Don’t forget that October means that it’s time for the UNM Gives campaign! The kick-off event is a Lobo Salsa Cook-off and will be held today in the Atrium of the Student Union Building from 11:30 to 12:30! 25 students, faculty and staff (including me!) will be sampling our best salsa and guacamole! Join us and help choose the winner!

In a recent Academic Dispatch from the provost, he highlighted something that I want to bring to your attention. It’s a new day at UNM, and I am proud to have administrators who appreciate the hard work in which staff are engaged:

“For students at UNM, numerous tasks are managed by our professional staff, often unseen and too often unappreciated. Enrollment, advising, transcription, health care, cooking, cleaning, program management, job fairs: all these things happen because dedicated staff are here to make them happen, and to support the university’s mission of discovery, education, and service.”

-- UNM Provost and Executive Vice President, James Holloway

Enjoy your month, and find some time to get out and enjoy the balloons as they cover our big sky! The Albuquerque International Balloon Fiesta is one of the top 5 reasons that I relocated to Albuquerque. Grab a green chile breakfast burrito (my favorite) and some Piñon coffee and look to the sky!

As always, I look forward to hearing from many of you during the next month and don’t forget that you can engage with us by following along on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram.

Respectfully,

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Twitter Icon