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President’s Corner

Please join us in congratulating our 2017 Operating Staff Dependent Scholarship winners: Jenee Carlson, Kaitlin Allen and Donald Giebel! Each will receive $1,000 for the 2017-18 academic year. We had a record number of applicants thanks to NIU’s new Academic Works program, and it was difficult to choose between so many high-caliber students.

Jenee is a sophomore majoring in business and hopes to use proven business practices to address social issues in the world.

Kaitlin is a sophomore majoring in kinesiology and hopes to communicate a positive attitude to help motivate others.

Donald is a sophomore majoring in accounting and hopes to become a CPA and assist local businesses with their taxes.

On behalf of the council and all civil service employees, best wishes to our winners as you continue your path at NIU and beyond. We will be here for you in any way to help you be successful.

All the best,

Holly Nicholson, President
Operating Staff Council 2016–2017

NIU Students and DeKalb Homeless Appreciate Gifts from The Giving Project

Participants in the Giving Project, sponsored by the Operating Staff Council, have made and continue to produce handmade items to fulfill the needs of NIU students and the DeKalb homeless. NIU staff, faculty, students and retirees are making scarves and tote bags for students who frequent the Huskie Food Pantry or stop by the NIU Police Department. They also make sleeping mats for homeless persons who are living in the community without a shelter.

“Our students have to make a lot of choices about their spending. They may have a scarf, but it’s raggedy. Not being able to afford it, having it available here at Huskie Food Pantry is really nice,” said Liz McKee, Assistant Director for Community Service for Student Involvement & Leadership Development.

People who come to The Giving Project workshops also make items made from grocery bags that are cut into strips and tied together to make “plarn” (plastic yarn). One of these projects is reusable tote bags made for students who go to the Huskie Food Pantry.

A tote bag recipient, William, said that the tote bag was “surprisingly durable and easy to carry.” He also shared that he considers it a favorite bag.

“I appreciate the support from the community, especially initiatives like these. They come in with open arms. It’s just such a nice experience,” said McKee.
Stacey Bivens
NIU Position/Building: Library Specialist/Founders Memorial Library
Came to NIU in: 1986; I transferred in as a junior from Highland Community College.
Hometown: Freeport, Illinois
Proudest Achievement: I paid my own way through college – both undergraduate and graduate.
Hobby/Interest: Bird watching, reading, volunteering at Sand Bluff Bird Observatory (a bird-banding station in Winnebago County), traveling
No One Knows That I: wanted to be an astronomer when I was younger.
Favorite Movie, Play or Book: Raiders of the Lost Ark; I know the dialogue by heart and Harrison Ford is one of my favorite actors.
Inspired By: My parents. My dad was a firefighter and EMT for the Freeport Fire Department. My mom was a teacher, a firefighter and EMT for the Freeport Library. Part of her job was to pick out books for shut-ins and local nursing homes. My brother and I helped deliver the boxes of books. My family also helped deliver Meals on Wheels. Mom and Dad demonstrated to my brother, sister, and me, not just by the jobs they did, but also by their volunteer activities, that we should always look for situations where we could help. Through family activities like camping and hiking, we learned to love and respect nature.

Nancy Brown
Years on Council: 2 years
NIU Position/Building: Building Services/Swen Parson
Came to NIU in: August 1995
Hometown: Leland
Proudest Achievement: That I have raised my children in such a way that their spouses thank me.
Hobby/Interest: I love to garden.
No One Knows That I: used to have an alligator as a pet when I was younger.
Favorite Movie, Play or Book: Pride and Prejudice
Inspired By: Motivational quotes about life.

Ellen Cabrera
NIU Position/Building: Office Manager, Public Administration/LASBO 201
Came to NIU in: Fall 2001
Hometown: Chula Vista, California
Proudest Achievement: Completing 2 half marathons 20 years apart.
Hobby/Interest: Interested in hiking, still working toward making it a hobby
No One Knows That I: …let’s keep it that way. ;)
Favorite Movie, Play or Book: Hobbit/Lord of the Rings trilogy
Inspired By: My Catholic faith

Angélica Gutiérrez-Vargas (Angi)
NIU Position/Building: Assistant Equal Opportunity Officer / HR165
Came to NIU in: August of 1996 as an undergraduate student, and returned in December of 2007 as a full-time employee.
Hometown: I’m a proud DeKalb Barb! Although I was born in Los Angeles and moved to DeKalb when I was 6 years old.
Proudest Achievement: My degrees, a B.S. in Business Administration, a B.A. in Translation and Business Spanish, and an MS Ed. in Adult Higher Education. I say this because my sons are my world, and being able to show them that no matter what obstacles are put in your path, if you continue to move forward and not allow anyone to tell you otherwise, you can truly accomplish anything you firmly set your mind and focus on.
Hobby/Interest: I absolutely LOVE dolphins. They have always fascinated me. I also enjoy spending time with my three boys: my husband and two sons. Whenever I can sneak in a bit of “ME” time, I do enjoy reading a good book and always have trouble putting it down!
No One Knows That I: was only called Angie or Ang by my family until I started college. I was always Angélica to my teachers, acquaintances, even my friends, up until I got to NIU. My professors kept saying my name wrong no matter how many times I corrected them, it was very frustrating. They started calling me Angie, and now I’m Angie to most, although my long-time/childhood friends still call me Angélica, and my family usually calls me Ang.
Favorite Movie, Play or Book: I don’t have a specific category/genre, I like being adventurous and trying new things.

Inspired By: My parents; José, a senior at DeKalb High School and Alessandro, a 6th grader at Huntley Middle School. Both honor roll students and devoted soccer players. We’re extremely proud of them.

Cindy Kozumplik
Years on Council: 1 year
NIU Position/Building: Training and Testing Specialist for the Division of Information Technology Services
Came to NIU in: 1998, started in Finance and Facilities
Hometown: DeKalb
Proudest Achievement: My family and my relationship with God
Hobby/Interest: walking, cross stretch, and reading
Favorite Movie, Play or Book: Movie: Casablanca and books by Max Lucado
Inspired By: My friend Christel, she shows me that you live each day and give glory to God for each day you have. Life is not always fair but it is still a gift.

Patricia Liberty-Baczek
NIU Position/Building: OSS/Evans Fieldhouse
Came to NIU in: 1998
Hometown: South Side
Proudest Achievement: Never giving up
Hobby/Interest: Politics/The Walking Dead
No One Knows That I: taught myself to swim @ NIUs FIT Program
Favorite Movie, Play or Book: To Kill A Mockingbird
Inspired By: My parents

Holly Nicholson
Years on Council: 3 years
NIU Position/Building: Web Content Manager/Still Hall
Came to NIU in: 2002 as a student, 2007 as full-time staff
Hometown: DeKalb, IL
Proudest Achievement: I was co-valedictorian of my high school class. I was also one of the first people in the U.S. to hold a social media specialist position at a university and successfully built up NIU’s social media program from 2010 through 2013 (including speaking at a national conference).

(continued on next page)
Employment Changes

January 2017

Welcome New Employees
Krista Albers, Program Assistant—Development Operations
Kewon Brown, Food Service Sanitation Laborer—Campus Dining Services
Mayra Derrington, Program Adviser—Family, Consumer & Nutrition
Leslie Dolan, Child Development Supervisor—Campus Child Care
Nancy Grych, Program Coordinator—College of Engineering & Engineering Technology
Mary Hoebing, Clerk—Physics
Natalie Hoyt, Internal Auditor—Internal Audit
Morgan James, Publicity Promotion Specialist—Intercollegiate Athletics
Shawn Kennedy, Food Service Sanitation Laborer—Campus Dining Services
Derick Lalowski, Office Support Specialist—Communication
Abigail Lippert, Office Support Specialist—Theatre & Dance
Kangni Mombou, Assistant Parking & Traffic Coordinator—Public Safety
Arielle Sherman, Office Support Specialist—Psychology
Gregg Sperling, Interpreter Hearing Impaired—Disability Resource Center
Jenna Villani, Office manager—Gender & Sexual Resource Center
Richard Ward, Emergency Management Coordinator—Public Safety
Corie Wild, Office Support Specialist—Management

Changes
LeAnn Baie to Office Manager—College of Law
Nicholas Bourke to Office Support Specialist—Orientation & Family Connections
Renata Catlett to Office Support Specialist—Alumni Services
Debbie Cullison to ERP Applications Developer II—Application Services
Lucille Galpin to Office Support Specialist—Geology and Environmental Geosciences

Ellen Hamrick to Internal Auditor—Internal Audit
Cathy Kubasiak to Business Manager I—College of Education
Brien Martin to Business/Administrative Associate—Budget Office
France Mitchell to Administrative Aide—University Council
Mariani Omalley to Account Technician II—Infrastructure Services
Rebecca Scott to Payroll Specialist II—Human Resource Services
Ruth Stone to Building Service Foreman—Building Services
Jennifer Withers to Administrative Assistant—Executive Vice Provost and Provost
Pamela Yockey to Child Development Supervisor—Campus Child Care

Gregg Fieffer, Budget Analyst II to Budget Office
Shante Humble, Budget Analyst II to Budget Office

Retirements
Susan Bergman, Office Manager—Sponsored Projects
Linda Blaire, Building Service Worker—Building Services
Sharon Campbell, Business/Administrative Associate—University Libraries
Gary Carter, Plumber Foreman—Physical Plant
Karen Clifton, Police Corporal—Public Safety
Lee Ann Henry, Administrative Assistant—University Advancement & NIU Foundation CEO
Antonio Martinez, Building Service Worker—Building Services
Annalisa Rainwater, Building Service Worker—Building Services
Kristi Rhodes, Storekeeper III—Biological Sciences
Charles Schuman, Jr., IT Manager/Administrative Coordinator—DoIT-Admin-Business-Finance
Bonnie Seebach, Cashier III—Campus Parking
Gina Shannon, Office Support Specialist—Special and Early Education

Separations
Sarah Boyd, Office support Specialist—College of Health & Human Sciences
Ilfat Fathima, Office support Specialist—Foreign Languages Literature
Emily Greenwaldt, Child Development Supervisor—Campus Child Care
James Korbal, Motorcycle Safety Specialist—Motorcycle Safety
Jennifer Krug, Culinary Worker III—Lorado Taft
Michael Lange, Building Service Worker—Building Services
Thomas Martin, Motorcycle safety Specialist—Motorcycle Safety
Melissa Schulz, Payroll Specialist III—Human Resource Services
Megan Sippel, Administrative Aide—Public Safety
Terry Slone, Office Manager—College of Education

February 2017

Welcome New Employees
Teresa Harrington, Accountant II—Holmes Student Center
Robert McVickar, Sports Equipment Supervisor—Intercollegiate Athletics
Linda Novak, Human Resource Assistant—Human Resource Services
Kevin Oakes, Multimedia Technician—Communication
Alec Robbins, Arena Physical Facility Supervisor—Convocation Center
Lynn Schmitz, Program Adviser—Access

Changes
Carol Albert to Assistant IT Service Desk Manager—Operation Services
Andrew Collins to Auditorium Technical Director—Convocation Center
Jennifer Ferris to Office Manager—Environmental Studies
Samantha Gaul to Program Assistant—University Honors Programs
Diane Hill to Administrative Assistant—University Advancement & NIU Foundation CEO
Joan Pontarelli to Office Manager—VP Research and Innovation Partnerships
Ashleigh Sorenson to Program Adviser—College of Engineering & Engineering Technology
Judith Stecker to Payroll Specialist I—Human Resource Services
Debra Thompson to Office Administrator—College of Visual & Performing Arts
Jessica Webb to IT Technical Associate—Web & Internal Communication

Department Changes
Marianne Spring, Administrative Assistant to Office of Institutional Communication

Retirements
Robert Anthenat, Jr., Culinary Worker II—Campus Dining Services
Robert Banke, Photographer—Office of Creative Services
Janice Devore, Office Manager—Psychology
George Tarbay, Photographer—Office of Creative Services

Separations
Betsy Carnahan, Admissions/Records Representative—Admissions
Dennis Dziekan, IT Technical Associate—Registration & Records
Matthew Helser, Security Guard—Public Safety
Patricia Maxwell, Publicity Promotion Specialist—College of Engineering & Engineering Technology
Abdul Mohammad, IT Technical Associate—Application Services
Kangni Mombou, Assistant Parking & Traffic Coordinator—Public Safety
Kendrick Myles, Residence Hall Attendant—
Public Safety
James Quick, Culinary Worker II—Campus Dining Services
Kimberly Rains, Building Service Worker—
Building Services
Sarah Ransom, Office Manager—Students’
Legal Assistance
Matthew Sippel, Account Technician II—
Intercollegiate Athletics
Tina Strasma, Building Service Worker—
Building Services
Kelsey Thorp, Food Service Sanitation Laborer—Lorado Taft

Service Awards

JANUARY 2017

5 Years
Rebekka Ayres—Human Resource Services
Carol Dolan—Admissions
Jeanne Essex—Executive Vice President and Provost
Vicki Wronkowski—Human Resource Services

10 Years
Shante Humbel—Budget Office
Wendy Ippel—Bursar
Michael Moore—Public Safety
Scot Ostrander—Campus Dining Services

15 Years
Tammy Arneson—Operation Services

20 Years
Crispus Bowen—Campus Dining Services
Judy Rourke—Bursar

FEBRUARY 2017

5 Years
Deborah Bonnell—Accounts Payable & Travel
Flordeliza Cuizon—Building Services
Hector Espiritu—Building Services
Tina Goodson—Building Services
Debra McGinn—Building Services
Alan Slayton—Building Service Worker
Terrence Tate—Building Service Worker
Nicole Tischhauser—Building Services
Ryan Wiggins—Physical Plant

10 Years
Chieme Bentley—University Libraries
Patricia Crumpacker—College of Education
Kris McClure—Health Services
Festus Mwinzi—Operations Services
Cynthia Olson—Office of Creative Services
Olivier Penney—Physical Plant

15 Years
Timothy Brown—Campus Dining Services
John Campbell—Public Safety
Jori McCullough—Convocation Center
Carolyn Ramsey—Career Services
Sophia Vercados—Office of Creative Services
Cynthia Zimberoff—Public Safety

20 Years
Jason Hutchison—Building Service Worker
Mariano Spizzirri—Office of Creative Services
Ruth Stone—Building Services
Delyce Turner—Building Services
Mary Whalen—Building Services

25 Years
Konstantina Bahramis—Campus Dining Service
Stacey Bivens—University Libraries
Dana Hughes—Graduate School
Krista Jones—Application Services
Guy Stephens—Northern Public Radio

30 Years
Margaret Berg—Accountancy
Patti Schoo—Campus Dining Services

35 Years
Deana Eberly—Music