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### Notice

Due to budgetary constraints, you will only receive one more printed Northern Staff Newsletters, and we will no longer be mailing printed copies. To continue to receive our newsletter electronically, please send your email address to [OSC@niu.edu](mailto:OSC@niu.edu) to receive the January 2020 and any future newsletter online.

## Happy Holidays from Your Operating Staff Council



*Front row left to right: Rebekka Ayres; Jay Monteiro, vice president; Cindy Kozumplik, parliamentarian; Pat Wielert, treasurer; Stacey Bivens, secretary; Jeffrey Royce, president; Angie Gutierrez-Vargas.*

*Back Row: Holly Nicholson, Linda Yates, Renee Kerwin, Tracey Ward, Natasha Johnson, Patricia Gingrich, Dave Berg, John Hulseberg.*

*Not Pictured: Karen Smith, Lauren Teso-Warner, Rave Meyer, Nancy Skelley, Debbie Williams.*

## Important Dates

- End of Fall Semester:** December 15, 2019
- Administrative Closures:** December 23, 30, 31, 2019
- Floating Holidays:** December 24, 26, 27, 2019
- Holiday:** January 1, 2020

# The Giving Project: Crafting for a Cause

The Giving Project continues to produce handmade gifts to help fill the needs of Northern Illinois University students and other members of the community. They have added “Crafting for a Cause” to their name because they can do more than just knit and crochet.

Aline Click, director of eLearning Services and the Digital Convergence Lab, coordinates The Giving Project: Crafting for a Cause, which meets every Thursday from noon to 1 p.m. in Founders Memorial Library, Room 338.

They have expanded their outreach but still continue to make hats, scarves, blankets, shawls and cotton dishcloths for students who frequent the Huskie Food Pantry or stop by the NIU Police Department.

In addition to helping NIU students, they are expanding their outreach to include women and children at Safe Passage. They are also making items that fit the needs of others in the community.

“I have had a request from a local shelter to make hammocks for rescued ferrets. I like the idea of expanding our reach. This kind of fits in with the other initiative we have on campus to get a release day to spend volunteering — we are becoming a community that cares for our community and that is wonderful,” says Click.

Last year they participated at the STEM Fest Maker Faire, and a number of girl scouts received badges for learning how to make a chain for a bracelet.

If you'd like to attend The Giving Project: Crafting for a Cause but can't make it every week, that's fine — just stop by when you can. For those who don't know how to knit or crochet but would like to learn, there is always someone there who is happy to teach you. Alternatively, items can be made that don't require the ability to knit or crochet, like simple felt hats.

Other ways the NIU community can help are to donate yarn, knitting needles and crochet hooks. Also, the NIU Police Department usually has scarves, hats and mittens available, but their supply has dwindled with the unexpected cold spell DeKalb experienced. You may want to help replenish their supply.



Everyone is welcome to attend The Giving Project — NIU staff, faculty, students and retirees. The Giving Project is sponsored by the Operating Staff Council. If interested in attending, or if you can't attend the meetings but want to create items for students, contact Aline Click at [aclick@niu.edu](mailto:aclick@niu.edu). The events are listed on the NIU calendar <https://calendar.niu.edu/> and you can read more at [www.niu.edu/osc](http://www.niu.edu/osc).

## Confessions of a Rookie

### Rookie: Susan Swegle

Training and Development Specialist, hire date: August, 2015

In this episode of Confessions of a Rookie, we meet up with Susan Swegle, a training and development specialist with NIU's Employee Assistance Program. Susan transitioned into her current role as she was previously doing HR's in-person ethics training. How did you come to work at NIU, Susan? *I completed my master's degree in Higher Education and Adult Learning because I wanted to be a trainer/instructor. A friend told me about an opening for just such a position and the rest is history.* Yay for us you're here! Working in the EAP, do people have misconceptions about what you do? *Yes — people think the EAP is only for people who are having problems. However, my position specifically assists those who are new to NIU and/or those wanting information on expanding their career opportunities or furthering their education.* So why do you like it? What's the cool thing about what you're doing now? *Developing and implementing the L.E.T.S. (Leading Employees to Success) New Employee Program. I love helping people acclimate to a new job and*

*find their true potential, and this program helps new NIU employees do just that.*

With all the work demands, is there anywhere else you want to be besides at work? *Lake of the Clouds in the Porcupine Mountains in the Upper Peninsula of Michigan. Summer or winter, it's beautiful and peaceful.* In the mountains where you can soar like an eagle, huh? *Well, I have been to two Eagles concerts (before the untimely death of Glenn Frey) and they were both amazing.* Lucky you! Any other amazing things in your life? *Yes! My son recently proposed to his girlfriend (and she said yes!), but the surprise was he showed us the ring about three weeks earlier. We thought he was never going to do it!* Wow! That must have been really cool. Before we let you go, tell me the best compliment you've ever received? *People telling me what great kids my husband and I have raised. I sometimes don't know how we did it, but they have turned into really terrific adults.*

Good job, Susan!

If you would like to be in a future installment of Confessions of a Rookie, please email Rave at [RMeyer@niu.edu](mailto:RMeyer@niu.edu) with your name, title and hire date.

# Employment Changes

## September 2019

### *Welcome New Employees:*

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**Austin Allbert**, Residence Hall Attendant – Public Safety  
**Kathleen Binns**, Office Support Specialist – Housing and Residential Services  
**Brigid Crawford**, Program Assistant – Music  
**Elizabeth Denius**, Public Information Associate – Center for Southeast Asian Studies  
**John Freewalt**, Food Service Manager – Campus Dining Services  
**Rene Fuqua**, Program Coordinator – Student Involvement and Leadership Development  
**Ann Galletta**, Assistant Food Service Manager – Campus Dining Services  
**Joseph Garcia**, Snack Bar Attendant – Campus Dining Services  
**Brandon Goff**, Office Support Specialist – Housing and Residential Services  
**Tressman Goode**, Program Coordinator – Admissions Tours and Events  
**Austin Harding**, Culinary Worker II – Campus Dining Services  
**Dawn Harter**, Human Resource Assistant – Human Resource Services  
**Christina Jeralds**, Food Court/Snack Bar Supervisor – Campus Dining Services  
**Jamera Kerns**, Snack Bar Attendant – Campus Dining Services  
**Sarah Kolb**, Maid – Holmes Student Center  
**Jaraiya Morris**, Snack Bar Attendant – Campus Dining Services  
**Rachel Ortiz**, Office Support Associate – Campus Dining Services  
**Kayla Peterson**, Snack Bar Attendant – Campus Dining Services  
**Juanita Rabelo**, Snack Bar Attendant – Campus Dining Services  
**Jonathan Sall**, Multimedia Communications Associate – Office of Institutional Communications  
**Veronica Teqgus**, Snack Bar Attendant – Campus Dining Services  
**Spencer Tritt**, Radio Television Producer Announcer II – Northern Public Radio  
**Jacquelyn Valdes**, Food Court/Snack Bar Supervisor – Campus Dining Services  
**Shaelyn West**, Snack Bar Attendant – Campus Dining Services

### *Retirements:*

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**Janet Gianfrancesco**, Office Manager – Geography  
**Becky Jarman**, Medical Radiographer Technician II – Health Services  
**William Kenney**, Building Service Worker – Building Services

### *Separations:*

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**Kathleen Binns**, Office Support Specialist – Housing and Residential Services  
**Nelima Crawford**, Snack Bar Attendant – Campus Dining Services  
**Matthew Hoffman**, Business Manager II – Northern Public Radio  
**Teanna Lewis**, Building Service Worker – Building Services  
**Jalissa Murray**, Residence Hall Attendant – Public Safety  
**Brooke Patrick**, Office Manager – Music  
**Justice Sylvester**, Resident Hall Attendant – Public Safety

## October 2019

### *Welcome New Employees:*

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**Asante Alveraz**, University Union Night Supervisor – Holmes Student Center  
**Marcus Applewhite**, Residence Hall Attendant – Public Safety  
**Marisol Barajas**, Residence Hall Attendant – Public Safety  
**Diane Biggs**, Office Administrator – College of Engineering and Engineering Technology  
**Tamara Boston**, Program Coordinator – Diversity and Equity  
**Cornell Cox Jr.**, Residence Hall Attendant – Public Safety  
**Christopher Ebert**, Steam and Power Plant I – Heating Plant  
**TracyAnn England**, Office Support Specialist – Electrical Engineering  
**Tessa Gallentine**, Office Support Specialist – Campus Parking  
**Silva Ginting**, Program Coordinator – Faculty Development  
**Nathaniel Gravlin**, Building Service Worker – Building Services  
**Megan Holt**, Program Coordinator – Faculty Development  
**Robert Kerschke Jr.**, Food Service Manager – Campus Dining Services

**Ashley Lupton**, Account Technician II – Bursar  
**Keilene McCants**, Residence Hall Attendant – Public Safety  
**Emily McRedmond**, Administrative Aide – Center for Child Welfare and Education  
**Shelley Mikkelson**, Office Support Associate – Conferences Event Management  
**Kassandra Neuberg**, Snack Bar Attendant – Campus Dining Services  
**Lyndell Newman**, Building Service Worker – Building Services  
**Mark Schader**, Program Adviser – College of Liberal Arts and Sciences  
**Emma Smith**, Police Telecommunicator – Public Safety  
**Mary Soesbe**, Office Support Associate – Counseling, Adult and Higher Education  
**Niti Srivastava**, IT Technical Associate – Report Cards  
**Avyion Sterling**, Residence Hall Attendant – Public Safety  
**Frank Tornabene Jr.**, Locksmith – Physical Plant  
**Katharine Whitelaw**, IT Technical Associate – Ethics and Compliance  
**Rheycce Williams**, Security Guard – Public Safety

### *Death:*

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**David Fraser**, Police Officer – Public Safety  
**Carl Nelson**, Media Writer/Producer/Announcer II – Northern Public Radio

### *Retirements:*

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**Sharon Freeman**, Office Administrator – Academic Advising Center

### *Separations:*

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**Austin Allbert**, Residence Hall Attendant – Public Safety  
**Michael Bertolani**, Information Technology Associate Director – Office of Information Security  
**Daniel Cardinell**, Building Service Worker – Building Services  
**Leah Freeman**, Office Support Associate – Admissions Tours and Events  
**Sarah Kolb**, Maid – Holmes Student Center  
**Katherine Lenkart**, Admissions/Records Representative  
**Abigail Mogge**, Office Support Associate – Northern Public Radio  
**Isabelle Osborn**, Building Service Worker – Building Services

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**Northern Illinois University**

Operating Staff Council  
DeKalb, Illinois 60115-2828

## Become a UNIV 101 or UNIV 201 Educator

Orientation and First Year Programs is looking for faculty and staff to teach UNIV 101 and UNIV 201 for the fall 2020 semester. UNIV 101 is a one-credit university experience seminar focused on helping first-year students develop the essential skills needed to make an enjoyable and successful transition to NIU. UNIV 201 is a similar course designed specifically for transfer students.

The application for fall 2020 UNIV 101 and 201 educators is now open. All applications are due Feb. 7, 2020.

Prospective educators must:

- be a current member of the NIU faculty, staff, or administration.
- hold a bachelor's degree, although a master's degree is preferred.

- have prior college-level teaching experience.
- obtain supervisor's approval to be a UNIV 101/201 educator.

If you have questions, please email [fsye@niu.edu](mailto:fsye@niu.edu) or call **815-753-0028**.

Educators typically receive a stipend of \$2,000 for teaching the 16-week course. Once hired, all educators are required to attend training workshops, department meetings and participate in course feedback through email correspondence and surveys.

## Service Awards

### September 2019

#### 5 Years

**Ching Kit Elvin Chan** – Accounts Payable and Travel

**Tamara Cochran** – Human Resource Services

**Benjamin Engh** – Physical Plant

**Jeremy Falk** – Graduate School

**Jeffrey Royce** – Holmes Student Center

**Julianne Snow** – Public Safety

**Michael Tweed** – Constituent Resource Management

#### 10 Years

**Sim Tissa** – International Training Office

#### 15 years

**Robert Botts** – Bursar

**Donnis Briscoe** – Center for Child Welfare and Education

**Janean Koebbe** – Campus Dining Services

**Kristina Ross** – Accountancy

#### 20 Years

**Barbara Amberg** – Special and Early Education

**Sandy Carey** – Campus Dining Services

**Jerome Cole** – Building Services

**Lesley Gilbert** – Human Resource Services

**Joshua Klassen** – Building Services

**Richard Scott** – Public Safety

**Marzena Szmydt** – Student Involvement and Leadership Development

**Dale Thurman** – Operation Services

#### 25 Years

**Samuel Collin** – Building Services

**Renee Page** – College of Liberal Arts and Sciences

#### 30 Years

**Dave Detert** – Campus Dining Services

### October 2019

#### 5 Years

**Margaret Burnham** – University Recreation and Wellness

**Lucille Galpin** – Giorgi Law Clinic

**Stafan Groebel** – Budget Office

**Rachel Jurs-Lauderdale** – DoIt-Admin-Business-Finance

**David Mannia Jr.** – Environmental Health and Safety

**Joshua Schwartz** – Geology and Environmental Geoscience

#### 10 Years

**Jared Lash** – Application Services

**Joseph Lifshitz** – Holmes Student Center

**Steven Squier** – Registration and Records

#### 15 years

**Scott Betts** – Heating Plant

**Howard Burgett** – Building Services

**Hussul Greer** – Building Services

**Terry Halsey** – Building Services

**Elizabeth Harvey** – Building Services

**Alissa Leifheit** – Building Services

**Andrew Peccarelli** – Building Services

#### 20 Years

**Karen Euhus** – Lorado Taft Operations

**Irene Sanderson** – Application Services

#### 25 Years

**Kimberly McCaslin** – Building Services

**Carolyn VanEtten** – Building Services