Greetings Operating Staff,

I am honored to have been chosen to serve as OSC president for another term. I am also humbled to follow after my predecessors Jeffry Royce and Natasha Johnson, who led the council and actively participated in shared governance during an incredibly challenging situation. They advocated and provided a voice for employees during a time when unprecedented decisions were being made, and had to adapt to a disconnected, virtual work life while trying to maintain a sense of community and inclusivity. I appreciate them and their work and hope to be able to live up to their examples.

I’m excited to take on the first two-year OSC presidential term and am looking forward to the continuity the term extension will bring. During my term, I intend to advocate for fair application of remote working guidelines, fair salaries and a more balanced workforce. Also, in the next few weeks we should be able to finally codify the operating staff personnel advisor (OSPA) position in the university’s bylaws — an accomplishment that is five years in the making. Thank you to John Hulseberg who has been serving as the OSPA since the position’s inception — his tireless service has benefited thousands of employees.

The new Civil Service Emergency Fund will be another priority for the council this year. We are currently in the fundraising stage in order to build up enough funds to award multiple financial gifts to operating staff employees who are in financial crisis. We appreciate each and every one of the donations we have received so far.

If you would like to learn more, please visit go.niu.edu/cs-emergency-fund. You can donate online at go.niu.edu/civil-service-donation (choose Civil Service Emergency Fund under available designations) or by sending a check, with Civil Service Emergency Fund written on the memo line, to:

Northern Illinois University Foundation
Altgeld Hall 135
DeKalb, IL 60115-2882

Please feel free to reach out to me or any of OSC’s officers and committee chairs (go.niu.edu/osc-committees) if you have a question or issue you think we can help with.

Go Huskies!

Holly Nicholson
President, Operating Staff Council 2021-2023
hnicholson@niu.edu | osc@niu.edu
Good day everyone and welcome to Confessions of a Rookie. We have with us today a Mr. Tom West from the Housing Department. Good day, Tom! Have any interesting first remarks?

This year’s theme is “stuffed and filled.”

Wait, what? Oh, that’s interesting, so your favorite family tradition is doing themes at Christmas and this year your theme is “stuffed and filled.” Got it. That’s an awesome tradition! I may adopt that with my family. What other cool things are you doing or working on?

My wife and I are working on the genealogies of both our families.

Fascinating! Anything interesting come up yet? Wait, don’t answer that, we might not want to know.

So tell me, where is your favorite place in the world?

Wherever my family is. However, I like to spend time on the water anywhere.

On the water, huh? Being on the water while living in the north is a bit difficult in the winter.

What else do you do?

I am working my way through the works of David Baldacci. I recently finished reading “A Minute ’til Midnight.”

Nice! Reading is a good hobby outside of work. Speaking of work—let’s end this interview with “why did you want to work for NIU?”

I wanted to continue working with students between the ages of 18-21 as I had been doing at DeKalb High School with their transition program. I got to do so working with the university.

That’s pretty awesome. I love it when a plan comes together.

That’s it for this edition’s Confessions of a Rookie. Thank you Mr. West for playing along.

If you, or someone you know has worked at NIU fewer than five years and wants to be the next rookie, please contact Rave at RMeyer@niu.edu. We are always looking for new and exciting rookies to play along.

Prioritizing Your Health and Well-being

Recreation staff understands that prioritizing your health and well-being is more important now than ever before. We are looking to partner with you to help you “Have Fun, Live Well and Feel Your Best.” For a limited time only, we will be offering bonus time any annual memberships purchased through Oct. 15, 2021. The annual memberships purchased will not expire until Jan. 1, 2023! This is an incredible value as our annual memberships are normally only good for one year, so act fast before this bonus time expires.

Do you want to try before you buy?

Memberships for non-students are available. Try out NIU Recreation for a first-time visit at no cost.

This one-time offer includes access to any Recreation facilities available on the day of use, including the Recreation Center, Anderson Swimming Pool and the Outdoor Recreation Sports Complex.

There are two easy options. Visit the Recreation Center or call 815-753-0231 on the same day you redeem your one-day membership. Create an account ahead of time to speed up the process. Once you have an account and activated your pass, you can book a swim time or group fitness class online.

The trial day pass ends at closing time of the facilities available on the day redeemed. You are not permitted to check out day-use equipment (e.g., basketballs or racquets). You may visit with a current Rec member who can check out equipment.

Faculty and Staff Meal Plans Now Available

Faculty and staff can enjoy the convenience of purchasing a meal plan accessible from their OneCard ID with no need to carry another payment option when traveling across campus. Meals can be used to dine in or take food to go using a green, reusable container from our All You Care to Eat dining locations or toward meal exchange at participating locations. Enjoy the comfort of All You Care to Eat dining from Neptune and New Hall, offering dine-in or the option to take your food to go.

You can also use your meals when and where Meal Exchange is offered, including Stevenson Retail Dining, The Depot C. Store, Einstein Bros. Bagels, The Grill at Huskie Den, and QDOBA. Meals, and Dining Dollars when applicable, never expire. Make life easy and enjoy what campus dining has to offer with a plan that never expires. Sign up today!
In the Know

As we become enveloped in our day-to-day jobs, we sometimes forget about our available benefits and services, policies and procedures, expectations and how to go about finding resources when we need them. Here are some important links to get you started:

• State University Civil Service System (SUCCS) website: sucss.illinois.gov
• State University Retirement System (SURS) website: surs.org
• NIU Annuitants Association: niu.edu/annuitants
• IT Tech Skills Hub: go.niu.edu/techskills
• Administrative Professionals Advisory Council (APAC): niu.edu/apac
  - Complimentary office supplies list.
  - List of campus notary publics.
  - Who to call.
  - Special offerings.

FAFSA Time is Near

The fall 2021 semester is in progress, and the Financial Aid and Scholarship Office is already preparing for the 2022-2023 academic year. The Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) filing period for the ’22-’23 academic year will start Friday, Oct. 1, 2021. All students will use their 2020 tax information, and dependent students will also need to provide their parent(s)’ 2020 tax information as well. If a student does not know whether to file the FAFSA as a dependent or independent, please direct the student to the Dependency Status Section of “Filling out the FAFSA Form.”

Please help us spread the word by reminding your students that a FAFSA needs to be completed every year. Also, please encourage them to file their 22-23 FAFSA as early as possible. Some funds are distributed on a first-come, first-served basis. The sooner a student submits their completed FAFSA, the more likely they are to receive assistance, if they are eligible. To determine financial aid eligibility, they would complete the 2022-2023 Alternative Application for Illinois Financial Aid. Students can find more information along with the application on the Illinois Student Assistance Commission (ISAC) website. The filing period, tax information and dependency status is the same for the Alternative Application for Illinois Financial Aid as it is for the FAFSA.

Employees who utilize the tuition waiver are not required to fill out a FAFSA, however, they may consider doing so if they have expenses that will not be fully covered by the tuition waiver alone. To determine financial aid eligibility, they would complete the FAFSA.

The Financial Aid and Scholarship Office is available Monday through Friday from 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. in person, or via phone, email or video calls. You or your students may read more about the Financial Aid Process, visit our FAQ section and contact us via the information provided below. Thank you for your assistance. Go Huskies!

Financial Aid and Scholarship Office
Division of Enrollment Management, Marketing and Communications
Swen Parson Hall 245
DeKalb, IL 60115
815-753-1395 | finaid@niu.edu
niu.edu/financial-aid

Growing Brunch

Join our colleagues for a hybrid planting experience with our Growing Brunch Bowls fundraiser for the NIU Communiversity Gardens. We will provide you with the materials and education needed to start your own indoor/outdoor planter with a mix of flowers and herbs. The full list of plants is available on our plant order form, which you complete after you register and pay. The $25 cost supports scholarships for our student interns and covers the cost of the bowls, gravel, soil and plants.

We will host the in-person portion of the hybrid workshop on Wednesday, Nov. 3 at noon in Montgomery (room TBD). The online portion for colleagues still working from home will involve kits available for pick up each day the week before the event. In-person registration is limited.

Brunch is made better with good company, fresh-cut flowers and herbs.
Operating Staff Dependent Endowed Scholarship

For many years, the Operating Staff Dependent Endowed Scholarship fund has been able to award scholarships to dependents of civil service employees. In order to fund the scholarship, the Operating Staff Council has held events at the Civil Service Celebration such as a dunk tank and pie throwing. However, due to the ongoing COVID-19 restrictions it has become more difficult to gather donations.

If you wish to assist Operating Staff Council in funding the scholarship, you can make a one-time donation or donate through payroll deduction. For more information on how to donate, please visit our website.

If you are an operating staff member with two or more years of service and have a dependent either coming to NIU or already enrolled, don't forget to apply for the Operating Staff Dependent Scholarship beginning Nov. 15. Please visit go.niu.edu/OSC-scholarship for more information, how to apply and eligibility requirements.
### Employment Changes

#### July 2021

**Welcome New Employees:**

- Nick Florian, Program Director – Health and Human Sciences Survey Research Laboratory
- Kathleen Fox, Office Support Specialist – Mathematical Sciences
- Andrew Gregory, Security Guard – Public Safety
- Katherine Hagenbuch, Office Administrator – Accountancy
- Yashwathan Kasturi, IT Technical Associate – Report Cards
- Holly Kessler, Procurement Officer – Procurement Services and Contract Management
- Linda Kojcan, Program Coordinator – Chief Diversity Officer
- Mark Lobo, Graphic Designer – Alumni Services
- Enrique Nueve IV, IT Technical Associate – Computer Science
- Megan Pittner, Program Adviser – College of Engineering and Engineering Technology

**Retirements:**

- Margaret Berg, Office Administrator – Accountancy
- Brian Harger, Program Coordinator – Regional Technology Services
- Jason Hutchison, Building Service Worker – Building Services, Building Services
- Jeffrey Metters, Laboratory Mechanic – EIGERLab
- Lori Sprague, Administrative Assistant – College of Education

**Separations:**

- Laverne Boyle, Office Administrator – College of Health and Human Sciences
- Amber Byrd, Storekeeper II – Materials Management
- Sonia Fagan, Office Support Specialist – Kinesiology and Physical Education
- Megan Harris, Building Service Worker – Building Services
- Bernard Kay Jr., Police Telecommunicator – Public Safety
- Cristina Loza, Events Coordinator – Conferences and Event Management
- Emma McCoy, Arena Facilities Supervisor – Convocation Center
- Jody Mooneyham, Office Support Specialist – Economics
- Kelly Ostrom, Internal Auditor Assistant Manager – Internal Audit
- Ginger Prothero-Schwersenka, Senior Library Specialist – Libraries
- James Quinn, Building Service Worker – Building Services
- Michael Riley, Culinary Worker III – Residential Dining Service
- Kadie Threlk, Office Manager – Center for the Study of Women, Gender and Sexuality

#### August 2021

**Welcome New Employees:**

- Sade Barge, Financial Aid Coordinator – Financial Aid and Scholarship Office
- Ashley Bartelt, Program Assistant – University Writing Center
- Trevor Bollech, IT Support Associate – Operation Services
- Peter Challand, Admissions/Records Specialist – Registration and Records
- Kimberly Durbin, Snack Bar Attendant – Residential Dining Service
- Nicole Fitzpatrick, Program Coordinator – Nursing
- Kendal Harvell, Marketing Associate – University Marketing
- Tina Heffernan, Office Manager – Educational Technology, Research and Assessment
- Nora Jimenez, Senior Library Specialist – Libraries
- Linda Johnson, Culinary Worker I – Residential Dining Service
- Sarita Khatri, Culinary Worker I – Residential Dining Service
- Heather Korczak, Program Adviser – Curriculum and Instruction
- Daniel Krueger, Tool Room Supervisor – School of Art and Design
- Mitchell Magnani, Food Service Manager – Residential Dining Service
- Manjari Mishra, Laboratory Manger – Biological Sciences
- Melissa Plazola, Administrative Assistant – College of Education
- Justin Riner, Residence Hall Attendant Program Coordinator – Housing and Residential Services
- Theodore Scafl, Assistant Food Service Manager – Residential Dining Service
- Natalie Vey-Ranganathan, Office Support Specialist – School of Interdisciplinary Health Professions
- Brittany Wakefield, Food Court/Snack Bar Supervisor – Campus Dining Service

**Death:**

- Jeremy Hale, Carpenter – Physical Plant

**Retirements:**

- Cathy Kubasaki, Business Manager II – College of Education
- Katherine Zuidema, Program Assistant – Career Services

**Separations:**

- Marisol Barajas, Residence Hall Attendant – Public Safety
- Brian Berchtold, Program Coordinator – Vice Provost
- Kelsey Boll, Office Support Specialist – Counseling and Consultation Services
- Brianna Brooks, Residence Hall Attendant – Public Safety
- Lorelli Carlson, Admissions/records Specialist 1 – Registration and Records
- Peter Challand, Admissions/Records Representative – Registration and Records
- Lima Chatterjee, IT Technical Associate – Report Cards
- Pei Cheng, IT Technical Associate – Bursar
- Nicholas Coffman, Program Adviser – Intercollegiate Athletics
- Rafael Diaz Jr., Residence Hall Attendant – Public Safety
- Jonna Elliott, Food Court/Snack Bar Supervisor – Campus Dining Service
- Angela Erickson, Office Support Associate – Health Studies
- Jason Halstead, Building Service Foreman – Building Services
- Lisa Heal, Office Manager – Center for Southeast Asian Studies
- Kathleen Hughes, Office Administrator – Admissions, Tours and Events
- Leanne Kuchanuk, Campus Recreation Coordinator – Intercollegiate Athletics
- Xica McClain, Security Guard – Public Safety
- Trevor Bogney, Office Support Specialist – College of Engineering and Engineering Technology
- Jameson Russie, Culinary Worker III – Residential Dining Service
- Jennifer Seymore, Survey Interview Supervisor – Health and Human Sciences Survey Research Laboratory
- Nicholas Smith, Bowling and Billiard Center Attendant – Holmes Student Center
- Ashley Talbert, Snack Bar Attendant – Residential Dining Service
- Joseph Winters, Office Support Associate – Illinois Board of Examiners

---

*Northern Staff News is published by the Operating Staff Council of Northern Illinois University. Editor: Rave Meyer
Graphic Design: Holly Nicholson
Northern Illinois University is an equal opportunity/affirmative action institution. Printed by authority of the state of Illinois. niu.edu 09-21*