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## President's Corner



Greetings Operating Staff,

It's the most uplifting time of the year — award season. I'm excited to announce the winners of the 2022 **Outstanding Service Award**: Kristin Brynteson, NIU STEAM; Eric Biletzky, Research and Innovation Partnerships; Lara Lyles, Allied Health and Communicative Disorders; and Linda Yates, Biological Sciences. Lisa Freeman personally surprised all four winners with the news which makes it even more special. These extraordinary employees truly embody the Huskie spirit.

We've also chosen our **Operating Staff Dependent Endowed Scholarship** awardees for this year. They are: Izaiah Webb, child of Jessica Webb (Web and Internal Communications); Darby McGowan, child of Mark McGowan (Institutional Communications); and Morgan Haga, child of Sandra Jakubiak (Human Resource Services). The scholarship awards are well-deserved.

Congratulations to these hard-working Huskies and their contributions as employees and students. Look for more information about them in **NIU Today** in the upcoming weeks.

I'm also honored to announce that the **Civil Service Emergency Fund** committee was able to distribute the first two awards to Huskies in need of financial assistance. The committee will be able to give out two more awards soon. We are grateful to all of the donors who helped make this happen, and for the hard work and perseverance of the awardees. Please **consider donating** to help your colleagues who are facing difficult circumstances.

Across campus over the next few months, more outstanding students, faculty and staff will be recognized. I'm grateful to be surrounded by such excellence and to be motivated by these students and colleagues. I applaud all of the honorees this year, as well as those whose hard work may not receive public accolades but is just as important and inspiring.

Forward together,

Holly Nicholson  
President, Operating Staff Council 2021-2023  
[hnicholson@niu.edu](mailto:hnicholson@niu.edu) | [osc@niu.edu](mailto:osc@niu.edu)

# Confessions of a Rookie

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## Rookie: Jacklyn Egolf

University Libraries

Hire date: Nov. 19, 2021

Happy day, all! How is everything going for you? Are we ready for spring to make a comeback yet? Maybe sit outside on a park bench with a nice book?

Speaking of books, our rookie today is Jacklyn Egolf, a senior library specialist in Acquisitions at Founders Memorial Library. Good day, Jacklyn! Tell our dear readers, what's the biggest misconception people have about your current position?

*That I get to choose which books we buy.*

You mean all those books in the library and you didn't get to select a single one? That sounds a bit unfair. I bet you have excellent taste.

What about your current position is your favorite thing?

*The patience and support of my supervisor.*

Yeah, I get that. A good supervisor is worth their weight in gold, right?

Is there anything about your job you wish you'd known sooner?

*How difficult it is to find affordable housing in DeKalb in December.*

Ah, well, technically that's not about your job. It's more job-adjacent. But we'll take it.

Your answer also means you recently moved here. Is there any advice you would give your past self?

*You can never be too kind.*

That's sweet. Apparently past you was a real meaniehead. You're not wrong, though. Kindness is important.

One last question before we go - What made the best concert you've ever attended "the best"?

*Nashville Symphony and Chorus performing Messiah. The acoustics of the new building are amazing.*

Kind of like singing Bohemian Rhapsody in the bathroom, right? Oh, wait, that's probably not the same and I totally don't do that.

And there you have it, folks. Our chat with Jacklyn Egolf, Senior Library Specialist at Founders Memorial Library.

If you would like to be featured as a rookie, please contact [RMeyer@niu.edu](mailto:RMeyer@niu.edu). We have several spots open and waiting for you.

# OSC's CSEF Grants Awarded, Spark Gratitude

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In June 2020 members of OSC expressed a desire to help civil service employees who were experiencing financial hardship and the Civil Service Emergency Fund (CSEF) was established. The CSEF committee has been working diligently to raise funds to grant money to those in need. We envision and strive for the emergency fund to have a lasting legacy at NIU. On Feb. 18, 2022, two civil service employees were the first to receive \$250 grants. These people expressed extreme gratitude and appreciation. One recipient said, "I feel so blessed and special. Thank you for thinking about people who need this help."

The CSEF committee consists of seven individuals who raise money, evaluate applications and award grants. To bring awareness of the emergency fund to the community, OSC members operated a booth at Corn Fest and raised donations. Even during especially challenging times the pandemic has created, we witnessed generosity, compassion and people wanting to help in any way they can.

The maximum grant is \$250 and employees can request any amount up to \$250 when they [apply](#).

Please consider helping your fellow Huskies. We have individuals who have enrolled in payroll deduction. No amount is too small to donate and your donation can make a great impact in someone's life. You can give online on the [NIU Foundation website](#) by selecting the Civil Service Emergency Fund in the "available designations" dropdown. You can also contribute 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

Altruism is the true essence of being a Huskie.

# New Mask Guidelines Effective Feb. 28, 2022

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Illinois Governor Pritzker has announced that, effective Monday, Feb. 28, the state will discontinue its mask mandate for K-12 schools and follow the CDC's new guidelines for when and where masks are required. Given this new development and the university's agreement with the NIU faculty and instructors unions for this academic year, NIU will only require masks in the following circumstances and/or locations:

- Faculty members can require masks be worn in their teaching spaces.
- Public transportation.
- Surveillance testing locations.
- Northwestern Medicine Student Health Clinic.
- NIU health clinics.
- NIU Child and Family Development Center.

Huskies are also expected to wear masks at the request of individuals when meeting in the personal work or living spaces of those individuals.

Masks will be optional in all other settings. Any member of the NIU community who prefers to continue to mask is welcome and encouraged to do so.

For more information, please check the [Protecting The Pack website](#).

## What is Student Financial Advising Services?

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Student Financial Advising Services (SFAS) is a new campus office established in April 2021 and currently located in Campus Life 260. SFAS was established as part of an initiative to provide current and prospective students with a positive customer service experience that will promote their success, retention and on-time graduation at NIU through financial education.

Our financial advisors educate and advise all students and their family members on:

- Financial aid (applying, interpreting/understanding, accepting).
- Tuition and fees (completing cost estimator, reviewing charges, balances, payment options).
- General financial literacy (reviewing cost projections and options for paying for college, developing a multi-year financial plan and more).

Other topics discussed include applying for scholarships, searching for student employment (including work-study information) and much more.

The financial advisors are also able to connect students to other campus support resources and services in alignment with partnerships across campus. Along with our campus partners, we are part of a community of care and support.

Students can schedule a one-on-one appointment with one of our financial advisors via our [website](#). They will find a calendar with available dates and times and can select what works best for their schedule.

Virtual and phone appointments are available in [English](#) or [Spanish](#) during traditional business hours, as well as on evenings and weekends. We will be offering in-person appointments as the need arises.

In addition to the above, our financial advisors, with the assistance of our GradReady online learning modules, can help students learn about money management, increase their understanding about loans and loan repayment, learn important financial life skills such as building a budget and other real-world finance needs.

Presentations on various topics are also available. Please email [Financial-Advising@niu.edu](mailto:Financial-Advising@niu.edu) for more information and/or to request a presentation.

### More about the SFAS team

Anne Hardy is the director of Scholarships and Student Financial Advising Services. Our financial advisors are Angie Gutiérrez-Vargas, Jon Miller and Jorie O'Brien.

Our team comes with over 25 years of experience in community finance, student affairs and higher education. NIU alumni make up 75% of the current team, with 50% being longtime community members. The SFAS team has a love for NIU and our students, and our goal is to help them get the information they need to be successful during and after college. We approach our work from a holistic perspective and infuse our conversations about challenging financial topics with compassion and care.

SFAS invites you to visit our [website](#) to learn more about our services. We look forward to building more partnerships across campus to help our students succeed at NIU. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact us. We are very excited and look forward to working with you!

# What You Should Know: Facilities Management and Campus Services

## Work Request Desk/Facility Emergencies

The Northern Illinois University Work Request Desk is located at the Physical Plant. Hours of operation are Monday through Friday, 7:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. The desk receives repair/install requests for building maintenance including: Carpenters, electricians, elevator repair, key control, masons, painters, plumbers, refrigeration, remodeling requests/capital improvement, cooling/heating/ventilation, window treatments, carpet, upholstery, snow removal, barricades, irrigation, landscaping, pest control, lawn and plant maintenance, ergonomic assessment and extra building cleaning.

To place a request that does not need immediate attention, complete an [online request](#). Additional facility management links are available at this location as well. Work requests that need immediate attention can be submitted by calling 815-753-1741 and following the voice-recorded prompts. Email correspondence can be sent to [workorder@niu.edu](mailto:workorder@niu.edu).

## Building Services

The Building Services department is responsible for routine and emergency janitorial services for buildings within the university community.

More information about the department can be found on the [Facilities Management and Campus Services website](#). You can contact Building Services directly at 815-753-1147 or [buildingservices@niu.edu](mailto:buildingservices@niu.edu). For special requests outside Building Services normal cleaning protocol, visit the [Submit a Work Request webpage](#). Work requests that need immediate attention can be submitted by calling 815-753-1741 and following the voice-recorded prompts.

## Surplus

NIU campus surplus equipment is available in the Dorland Building. Schedule an appointment to look at equipment on the [Facilities Management and Campus Services website](#).

## Property Control

Each year, an annual physical inventory of tagged assets is performed by many people on campus who are responsible for assets/equipment. Responsible officers for NIU departments must complete their annual physical inventory by the assigned due date. If there is missing equipment, a Missing Asset Internal Investigation form must be completed by the inventory due date in OnBase. Learn more on the [Facilities Management and Campus Services website](#).

## Service Awards

### January 2022

#### 5 Years

**Leslie Dolan** – Child Development and Family Center  
**Nancy Grych** – Continuing and Professional Education  
**Mary Hoebing** – Human Resource Services  
**Natalie Hoyt** – Internal Audit  
**Jenna Villani** – English  
**Pamela Yockey** – Child Development and Family Center

#### 10 Years

**Deborah Bonnell** – Accounts Payable and Travel  
**Hector Espiritu** – Building Services  
**Debra McGinn** – Building Services  
**Lance Sandy** – Regional Technology Services  
**Alan Slayton** – Building Services  
**Terrence Tate** – Building Services  
**Mandy Wescott** – College of Liberal Arts and Sciences  
**Ryan Wiggins** – Physical Plant

#### 15 Years

**Chieme Bentley** – Libraries  
**Festus Mwinzi** – Integrated Media Technologies  
**Cynthia Oleson** – Office of Creative Services

**Oliver Penney** – Physical Plant  
**Terri Schmidgall** – Career Services

#### 20 Years

**Timothy Brown** – Residential Dining Services  
**John Campbell** – Public Safety  
**Kimberly Johnson** – Huskie Academic Support Center  
**Jori McCullough** – Convocation Center  
**Curtis Steele** – College of Engineering and Engineering Technology  
**Sophia Varcados** – Office of Creative Services  
**Cynthia Zimmeroff** – Public Safety

#### 25 Years

**Mariano Spizzirri** – Office of Creative Services  
**Delyce Turner** – Building Services  
**Mary Whalen** – Building Services

#### 30 Years

**Stacey Bivens** – Libraries  
**Guy Stephens** – Northern Public Radio

#### 35 Years

**Clifton Stiles** – Holmes Student Center

### February 2022

#### 5 Years

**Teresa Harrington** – Chief Diversity Officer  
**Linda Novak** – Human Resource Services  
**Kevin Oakes** – Communication  
**Alec Robbins** – Convocation Center

#### 10 Years

**Carol Dolan** – Admissions Systems and Processing  
**Vicki Wronkowski** – Human Resource Services

#### 15 Years

**Stephen Anderson** – OERD Marketing and Messaging  
**Wendy Ippel** – Bursar  
**Michael Moore** – Public Safety  
**Scot Ostrander** – Residential Dining Service

#### 20 Years

**Tammy Arneson** – DoIT-Admin-Business-Finance  
**Brian Smith** – Residential Dining Service

#### 25 Years

**Judy Rourke** – Development Operations



# Employment Changes

## January 2022

### *Welcome New Employees:*

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**Nadia Anaya**, Residence Hall Attendant – Housing and Residential Services  
**John Brown**, Building Service Worker – Building Services  
**Quinton Cochrane**, Building Service Worker – Building Services  
**Shelby Emery**, Residence Hall Attendant – Housing and Residential Services  
**Stephanie Fetters**, Food Court/Snack Bar Supervisor – Campus Dining Service  
**Elise Guerra**, Police Officer – Public Safety  
**Shahzar Hester**, Building Service Worker – Building Services  
**Candace Humphrey**, Human Resource Assistant Manager – Human Resource Services  
**Wesley Jones Jr.**, Office Support Specialist – Career Services  
**Astrid Larson**, Library Specialist – Libraries  
**Baily Martin**, Admissions/Records Representative – Graduate School  
**Xica McLain**, Food Court/Snack Bar Supervisor – Campus Dining Service  
**Kyle McCord**, Marketing Associate – University Marketing  
**Michael Rhode**, Human Resource Representative – Human Resource Services  
**Carlos Rodriguez**, Police Officer – Public Safety  
**Dawn Samson**, Program Director – Family and Consumer Sciences  
**Kaylee Smith**, Food Court/Snack Bar Supervisor – Residential Dining Service  
**Theresa Stafford**, Senior Events Coordinator – Conference and Event Management  
**Charles Starks**, Police Officer – Public Safety  
**Jill Thompson**, Test Specialist – Testing Services  
**Anastasiia Watt**, IT Technical Associate – DoIT-Admin-Business-Finance  
**Tracy Wescott**, Bowling and Billiard Center Management – Holmes Student Center

### *Death:*

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**Lisa Capparelli**, Program Services Aide – Center for the Study of Family Violence and Sexual Assault

### *Retirements:*

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**Michael Elmendorf**, Building and Grounds Supervisor – Lorado Taft Operations  
**Amy Hodge**, Medical Office Specialist - Allied Health and Communicative Disorders  
**Dana Hughes**, Administrative Assistant – University Advancement and NIU Foundation CEO  
**Nathan Johnson**, IT Technical Associate – Infrastructure Services

**Susan Kapost**, Library Operations Associate – Libraries  
**Andrzej Stolarski**, Parking Services Agent I – Campus Parking  
**Joseph Swedberg**, Carpenter – Physical Plant  
**Vicky Vosburgh**, Administrative Aide – Kinesiology and Physical Education  
**Philip Young**, Program Coordinator – Geography

### *Separations:*

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**John Alamia**, Bindery Worker II – Integrated Media Technologies  
**Maureen Brady**, Program Adviser – Student Athletic Academic Support Services  
**Justin Broitzman**, Steam and Power Plant II – Heating Plant  
**Neshay Curtis**, Building Service Worker – Building Services  
**Tristan Draper**, Library Specialist – Libraries  
**Zachary Effler**, Library Assistant – Libraries  
**Giovanni Esparza**, Building Service Worker – Building Services  
**Rene Fuqua**, Program Coordinator – Student Involvement and Leadership Development  
**Melissa Hubbuch**, Medical Office Associate – Allied Health and Communicative Disorders  
**Morgan James**, Marketing Associate – Intercollegiate Athletics  
**Gillian King-Cargile**, Program Director – P-20 Center  
**Joseph Lifshitz**, Program Coordinator – Holmes Student Center  
**Xena Nelms**, Child Development Supervisor – Child Development and Family Center  
**Marcel Rice**, Snack Bar Attendant – Campus Dining Service  
**Jessica Seipp**, Human Resource Associate – Human Resource Services  
**Mary Studebaker-Reed**, Office Manager – Psychology  
**Joseph Summins**, Athletic Communication Associate – Intercollegiate Athletics  
**Kay Wilson**, Program Coordinator – College of Education

## February 2022

### *Welcome New Employees:*

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**Mary Evans**, Program Coordinator – Nursing Services  
**Eric Glasby**, Program Coordinator – Alumni Services  
**Neda Johnson**, Human Resource Officer – Human Resource Services  
**Timothy Keller**, Office Manager – Counseling, Adult and Higher Education

### *Death:*

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**Patricia Probst**, Licensed Practical Nurse II – Health Services

### *Retirements:*

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**Patricia Bernhardt**, IT Technical Associate – Operation Services  
**Gwendolyn Campbell**, Administrative Assistant – Office of the Ombudsperson  
**Daniel Papuga**, Food Service Manager – Residential Dining Service  
**Phillip Torgerson**, Print Shop Superintendent – Integrated Media Technologies  
**Bonnie Webb**, Cashier IV – Bursar

### *Separations:*

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**Erin Elder**, Grants and Contracts Associate – Sponsored Programs Administration  
**Shelby Emery**, Residence Hall Attendant – Housing and Residential Services  
**Tressman Goode**, Program Coordinator – Admissions, Tours, and Events  
**Cody Hunt**, Food Court/Snack Bar Supervisor – Campus Dining Service  
**Heather Korezak**, Program Adviser – Curriculum and Instruction  
**Katie Markley**, Customer Service Assistant – Bursar  
**Skylar Ross**, Food Court/Snack Bar Supervisor – Campus Dining Service  
**Jocelyn Santana**, Program Director – Diversity and Equity

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