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Vice President's Corner



Greetings Operating Staff,

There is a sentiment that I have heard on campus that nothing ever changes, and individuals don't have a voice. While change at NIU can be slow, it is happening. The **new presidential staff awards** are one example. Changes are also happening with processes, professional development initiatives and in many other ways.

My experience is that individuals can make change. I have found people at all levels of our university that have been happy to advise, advocate and amplify the individual.

A function of the Operating Staff Council is to advocate for our operating staff. If you have an idea, concern, or are facing procedural or systematic challenges and are not sure where to start, I invite you to reach out to me or any **OSC member**. In addition to OSC there are many resources on campus. I would like to highlight a few that you can contact. Cathy Doederlein who was recently appointed as the director of Employee Experience and John Hulseberg, the operating staff personnel advisor. There is also the **Employee Assistance Program** and the **Office of the Ombudsperson**.

You are not alone on campus and should never feel that you are. Our doors are open – please don't hesitate to contact us.

- Holly Nicholson – president, OSC: hnicholson@niu.edu
- Jim Slagstad – vice president, OSC: jslagstad@niu.edu
- Cathy Doederlein – director Employee Experience: cdoederlein1@niu.edu
- John Hulseberg – operating staff personnel advisor: ospa@niu.edu
- Employee Assistant Program – EmployeeAssistance@niu.edu
- Office of the Ombudsperson – ombuds@niu.edu

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Vice President, Operating Staff Council 2022-2023
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Confessions of a Rookie

Rookie: Deb Gomez

Department: Facilities Management

Hire date: Aug. 8, 2022

Good day everyone, and welcome to this edition of Confessions of a Rookie. Today's rookie is Deb Gomez, an administrative assistant in Facilities Management and Campus Services.

Hi Deb! And how are you this wonderful January? You really are a rookie — you just began a few months ago. Wow. OK, let's jump right into something meaningful, shall we? What's the best compliment you've ever received?

When I've been told how impressed someone was after meeting any of my three children. (Yes, I am taking credit.)

While not a specific compliment, that's a great feeling, isn't it? Knowing your kids are productive members of society and it shows — that is invaluable.

With three boys, I bet there is always something going on, right? So, what makes you laugh?

I always end up laughing when my sons are all together.

I can imagine! I have four boys and it's a laugh a minute. There's got to be some down time, though. Maybe you watch a little television? What are you streaming?

I haven't found a series I want to binge, but I have watched a few movies — "Mama Mia," "The Proposal" and "Rosaline."

I'm going to go out on a limb here and assume you've watched those when your boys weren't home. Since we have a musical in there — tell our dear readers what made the best concert you've ever attended "the best?"

The best concert I've attended was when my son, Hunter (ELGI) performed at several events this past summer. His music is available on streaming platforms like Spotify.

Putting in a plug for the son! Gotta love that. It's a parent thing.

So what do you do for you? Have you read any books lately?

I believe the last book I read was "Lady Midnight" by Cassandra Clare.

Hmm, it seems that didn't leave much of an impression, huh? I'm sure the next book you read will be fantastic. Reading is never a waste of time.

Well folks, that's all for this edition of Confessions of a Rookie. Join us next time when we speak with — well, who am I kidding? I'm not going to tell you. You'll have to wait to find out!

And if **you** want to be the next Rookie, please contact Rave Meyer at RMeyer@niu.edu.

Do You Know?

Training and Employee Development

Human Resource Services has a [Training and Employee Development webpage](#). There are several items of interest to most employees to help in their daily duties and responsibilities. Please check them out today.

- There's a video on [tuition waivers](#) and another on the [art of delegation](#).
- A document on how to [create a digital signature](#).
- There's even resources for inclement weather employee development.

Shredding on Campus

Below you will find the dates for shredding in 2023. The first 2023 date is Monday, Jan. 23. Following the shredding request procedure is important. For departments that only have shredding occasionally, you will need to go to NIU's [shredding request form](#). Complete this form in its entirety and include how many boxes/bags you have to be picked up.

All requests need to be emailed to shreddingservices@niu.edu by the request deadline. This list is sent to the shredding company on the Monday before shredding pickup. Requests received after that day will be added to the following shredding date.

For those departments that have shredding every four weeks, you only need to complete the online form and email shreddingservices@niu.edu if you have additional shredding that does not fit into your bin. The shredding company needs to know how much additional materials you have. They are not supposed to pick up any additional shredding that is not on the list. They will pick up either Monday or Wednesday of the week of shredding.

Please contact Shredding Services at the Physical Plant at shreddingservices@niu.edu with any questions.

Request deadline	Shredding date
Jan. 16, 2023	Jan. 23, 2023
Feb. 13, 2023	Feb. 20, 2023
March 13, 2023	March 20, 2023
April 10, 2023	April 17, 2023
May 8, 2023	May 15, 2023
June 5, 2023	June 12, 2023
July 3, 2023	July 10, 2023
July 31, 2023	Aug. 7, 2023
Sept. 4, 2023	Sept. 11, 2023
Oct. 2, 2023	Oct. 9, 2023
Oct. 30, 2023	Nov. 6, 2023
Nov. 27, 2023	Dec. 4, 2023

Bowl Me Over

The fall 2022 semester bowling league had six teams of three bowlers, with a nearly equal mix of men and women, competing for the traveling trophy and bragging rights. Individuals from the trades (plumbers, electricians and key control) were represented as well as HR, and a few academic departments.

The battle for first place came down to two teams with only one point between them. The winning team opted to remain nameless as "Team 1" which proved prophetic. Team members were Ben Engh (Physical Plant), Vince Margiotta and Jeff Fairless (both from plumbing). Team "Huskie Bowlers" (Dawn Sibley from English, Virginia Naples from biology and Wes Jones from Career Services) had to settle for second place after leading from week two.

Sounds like a blast, right? Maybe you should join the bowling league this spring semester.

There will be an evening meeting with free bowling the second week of the semester and there was discussion of starting in week three. The league will again play on Thursday evenings and most bowlers arrive a little early to socialize and relax. League practice starts at 5 p.m. and league play begins at 5:15. It is \$6 per bowler to bowl (lane fees) and shoe rental is free. In addition, every league bowler receives three free games of bowling per week (including shoes) and are allowed a free locker for the duration of the league.

There are spots available for new bowlers and teams. You do not need to bring a full team; individuals can join with others to create a team. Team size depends on bowler interest.

Rules will be discussed in the meeting at the start of the semester.

Fliers will be going out at the start of the semester, or you can reach out to the Huskie Den directly at 753-1419 or email HuskieDen@niu.edu.

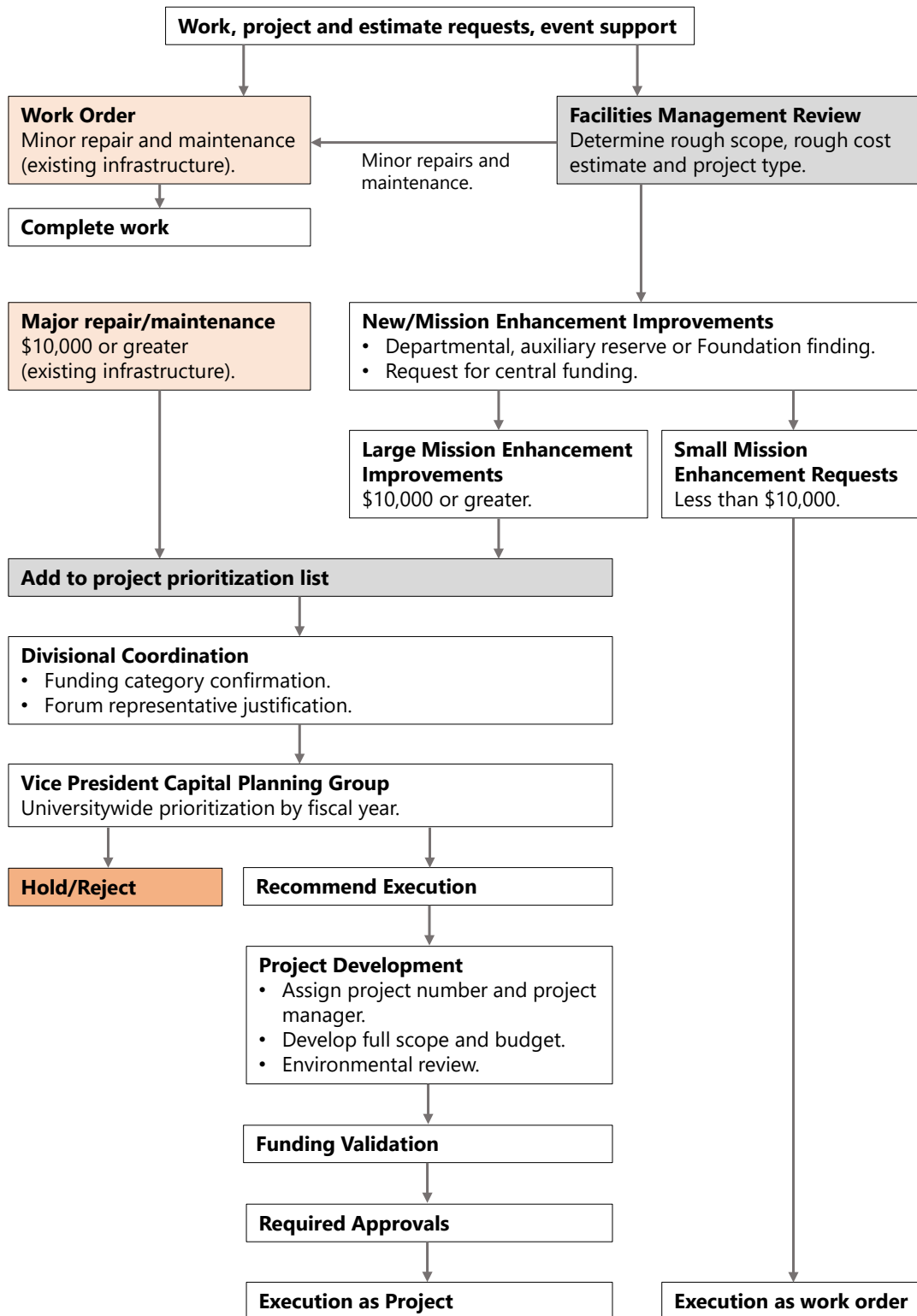
Fall League Highlights

	High Avg.	Most Improved	High Series Handicap	High Game Handicap	High Series Scratch	High Game Scratch
Men	Jeff Fairless: 174	Vince Margiotta: up 796 pins	Ben Engh: 696	Frank Tornabene: 260	Jeff Fairless: 567	Brian Timms: 163
Women	Dawn Sibley: 139	Dawn Sibley up 4.93 pins	Dawn Sibley: 669	Pulchratia Lacey: 231	Alex Astiazaran: 432	Michelle Luster: 133
Team			Team 1: 1985	Huskie Bowlers: 675	Team 2: 1321	RUN DMV: 398

Physical Plant Work Order Process

Because many employees wonder how long it will take for a work order to get processed, the Physical Plant provided a chart of how they determine work requests and project processes. This chart is not all-inclusive but meant more as a guide as to how things are routed and processed. If you need an accessible version of this chart, please email workorder@niu.edu.

Work Request and Project Process



Service Awards

November 2022

5 Years

Jeanna Ballard – Public Administration
Joseph Kuntz – Northern Public Radio
Katherine Mosher – Computer Science
Miriah Ranken – Human Resource Services
Irshad Shaik – Human Resource Services
Shawn Staggs – Application Services
Ryan Ziegelbauer – Admissions Systems and Processing

10 Years

Kimberly Brinkmeier – Heating Plant
Renata Catlett – Alumni Services
Chad Gautcher – Heating Plant
Tracy Miller – Center for Innovative Teaching and Learning
Joseph Spickerman – Heating Plant

15 Years

Tim Ferris – Transportation
Katherine Haight-Goshko – Operation Services
Timothy Schwartz – Application Services
John Sherman – Integrated Media Technologies
Peter Sopko – Building Services
Janice Wylde – Career Services

20 Years

Alan Clemens – Report Cards
David Click – Application Services
Dawn Gavin – DoIT-Admin-Business-Finance
Thomas Kapraun – Statistics
Patti Miller – Regional Center Operations
Deirdre Young – Registration and Records

25 Years

Stefanie Zimmerman – Materials Management

45 Years

Teresa Jacobsen – Libraries

December 2022

5 Years

Lucas Ortegel – Public Safety

10 Years

Daniel Biermann – Building Services
Carolyn Canon – College of Engineering and Engineering Technology
Manuel Diaz – Building Services
Michael Figora – College of Liberal Arts and Sciences

Tina Haile – Financial Aid and Scholarship Office
Lara Lyles – Allied Health and Communicative Disorders
Sandra Peerboom – Building Services
Kristin Sherman – Visual and Performing Arts External Programming
Gina Unger – Leadership, Educational Psychology and Foundations

15 Years

Angelica Gutierrez-Vargas – Financial Aid and Scholarship Office
DeMarcus Lindsey – Public Safety
Tracy Mereness – Industrial and Systems Engineering
John Votaw Jr. – Public Safety

25 Years

Laurie Sodaro – College of Liberal Arts and Sciences

30 Years

Eric Hradecky – Northern Public Radio
Deborah O'Dell – Institutional Research

NIU Event Venues and Registration Services

NIU has several venues perfect for a variety of events. Our convenient locations and world-class amenities will make your next conference, meeting, wedding or other celebration one to remember.

Festive event spaces in DeKalb, Rockford and Naperville.

NIU's DeKalb campus has beautiful, convenient spaces to fit any event such as our picturesque Altgeld Hall, steeped in beauty and tradition, or the modern sunlit spaces of our Barsema Alumni and Visitor Center

Don't forget – NIU Naperville and NIU Rockford also offer versatile spaces for your meeting or special occasion.

Explore our venues at go.niu.edu/venues.

Conference registration and planning for any location.

Meeting planning and registration require countless hours of staff time and meticulous attention to detail. Our experienced staff will make your meeting run smoothly – freeing up your staff to focus on their core roles.

Our start-to-finish services include:

- Registration online, by phone, email, fax and on-site.
- Staffed and knowledgeable call center.
- Secure data and payment management.
- Coordination of schedules, venues and catering.
- Coordination of continuing education and professional development credits.

Learn more at go.niu.edu/conferenceregistration.

Employment Changes

November 2022

Welcome New Employees:

Nicole Adams, Office Administrator – Psychology
John Alamia, Inventory Specialist – Materials Management
Emma Busken, Program Services Specialist – Family and Consumer Sciences
Christina Carpio, Program Coordinator – Asian American Resource Center
Jessica Cioni, Building Service Worker – Building Services
Carolyn Clarke, Housing Administrator – Housing and Residential Services
Ashley Golz, Grants and Contracts Associate – Sponsored Programs Administration
Joshua Hetland, Distribution Clerk – Campus Dining Service
Selina Holman, Customer Service Assistant – Bursar
James Jindrich, Procurement Officer – Procurement Services and Contract Management
Sarah Kakkuri, Child Development Associate – Child Development and Family Center
Crystal Lanan, Office Manager – Allied Health and Communicative Disorders
Doreen Mace, Office Support Associate – College of Liberal Arts and Sciences
Jennifer Moore, Office Manager – College of Education
Bhagyashree Naik, IT Technical Associate – Report Cards
Manikantha Pasem, Program Assistant – Residential Dining Service
Aaron Robertson, Building Service Worker – Building Services

Christopher Robinson, Program Coordinator – University Recreation and Wellness
Scott Barry, Accountant I – Holmes Student Center
Jason Underwood, Program Director – Center for Innovative Teaching and Learning
Joshua Vasquez, Office Support Associate – Residential Dining Service
Mai Wisebrook, Office Administrator – Physics
Dana Williams, Food Court/Snack Bar Supervisor – Campus Dining Service
Dallas Wrasse, Culinary Worker III – Lorado Taft Operations

Retirements:

Alex Sroczynski, Building Service Worker – Building Services
Christine Wilhelm, Building Service Worker – Building Services

Separations:

Kailey Bednarek, Office Support Specialist – School of Interdisciplinary Health Professions
Maria Dominguez, Program Coordinator – P-20 Center
Johnathan Johnson, Residence Hall Attendant – Housing and Residential Services
Andrew Lira, Radio TV Producer Announcer – Integrated Media Technologies
Matthew Mol, Program Advisor – Intercollegiate Athletics
Jennifer Moore, Office Manager – College of Education

December 2022

Welcome New Employees:

Damien Doninger, Facility Operations Specialist – Regional Center Operations
Alaena Doubler, Building Service Worker – Building Services
Erin Elder, Business/Administrative Assistant – Outreach, Engagement, and Regional Development Division Administration
Chloe Fu, Safety/Environmental Compliance Specialist
Alexander Kramer, Program Coordinator – Esports Network
Kenneth Riley, Building Service Worker – Building Services
Josie Schmidt, Building Service Worker – Building Services
Jenna Shlifka, Customer Service Assistant – Conferences Event Management
Tara Watson, Survey Interview Supervisor – Health and Human Sciences Survey Research Lab
Haniyyah Woods, Building Service Worker – Building Services

Retirements:

Sherry Christensen, Office Support Specialist – Student Affairs Central

Separations:

Anne Edwards, Program Director – Chief Diversity Officer
Manikantha Pasem, Program Assistant – Residential Dining Service
Erica Schermerhorn, Office Manager – Residential Dining Service
Shannon Thomas, Program Assistant – Center for Southeast Asian Studies

Operating Staff Dependent Scholarship Deadline Jan. 31

The [Dependent Scholarship](#) provides financial assistance to NIU students who are the children of NIU operating staff (civil service) employees. This scholarship is made possible by the fundraising activities of civil service employees.

Thank you to everyone who has given to the scholarship. We invite you to read about the [past recipients](#) you have helped support.

You can apply for the scholarship online through [MyScholarships](#). Search for “Operating Staff Dependent Endowed Scholarship.” All items must be completed, and your information will be kept confidential.

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