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President’s Corner



Greetings Operating Staff,

As I think back over my time on council, I realize we have a lot to celebrate. Together, and with the administration and other councils and committees, we’ve accomplished great things. I truly believe in the effectiveness of shared governance, and I encourage you to keep voting for your representatives and consider becoming one yourself.

I joined OSC in 2014. Since then, we’ve received more support for staff councils with the addition of an administrative assistant, release time for council presidents and the opportunity to receive resources for council presidents’ departments in collaboration with the CFO. Faculty and SPS have shared a personnel advisor for many years; now [operating staff have a personnel advisor](#) and SPS has their own as well. A shared leadership committee revamped our entire [staff awards system](#).

Tuition waivers historically covered only base tuition rates; now they also cover differential tuition. OSC proposed a day off for staff for volunteering and the administration implemented it in the form of [Huskies Give Back](#). Individuals also served our community through The Giving Project, providing cold weather gear and shopping bags to people in need. We started an [emergency fund](#) for staff and have distributed over \$4,000 so far thanks to your generous donations.

OSC hosted the other state civil service councils at the annual [Council of Councils](#) in 2017 and will host again in October.

We helped reimagine, and strengthen, shared governance. We constantly advocate for positive change, and we hope some of the things we have in the works now will soon be announced in this newsletter.

I am honored and blessed to be a part of an incredible shared governance system for the past nine years and am humbled in the staff’s trust in me to lead OSC for five of them – through some of the most tumultuous times NIU has experienced.

Please join me in applauding all we’ve accomplished together, and I wish you an incredible summer.

Holly Nicholson

President, OSC 2021-2023 | hnicholson@niu.edu

Do You Know?

Every so often we get requests on where to find specific information. Therefore, periodically we provide links to things to do on and off campus with events, places to visit and learning opportunities. These links are not comprehensive, so we recommend that you always check the NIU calendar to see what current events are happening.

Seminars, Groups and Events

- Academic Diversity, Equity and Inclusion: go.niu.edu/sjeregistration
- Alumni Association: Tenth annual golf outing and other events: myniu.com/events.html
- Annuitants Association: niu.edu/annuitants
- Asian American Resource Center: niu.edu/aac/events
- Athletics Calendar: niuhuskies.com/calendar
- College of Business: cob.niu.edu
- Gender Resource Support Groups and Events: niu.edu/gsrc/programs
- Geology and Environmental Geosciences Virtual Seminars: niu.edu/geology
- Kaltura Captioning: go.niu.edu/kaltura-captioning
- NIU Greenhouse: go.niu.edu/biology-events
- NIU STEAM: go.niu.edu/steam-events
- Summer Camps: niu.edu/summercamps
- Zoom Training (recorded or live webinar): go.niu.edu/zoom

Places of Interest to Visit on Campus

- Art Museum: go.niu.edu/artmuseumevents
- Blackwell History of Education Museum: go.niu.edu/blackwell
- Pick Museum of Anthropology: niu.edu/pick-museum
- Observatory: niu.edu/physics/observatory (currently closed)
- NIU Greenhouse: go.niu.edu/biology-events
- Diversity and Cultural Resource Centers: go.niu.edu/diversity-community
- Community School of the Arts Calendar: go.niu.edu/csacalendar
- Music Events: go.niu.edu/concerts
- RealityBytes Film Festival: realitybytes.niu.edu
- Theatre and Dance: go.niu.edu/theatre

Get Involved

- Association of Campus Religious Organizations: go.niu.edu/acro
- Communitary Gardens: go.niu.edu/garden-volunteering
- Huskie Food Pantry: niu.edu/food-pantry

Stay Informed

- Board of Trustees Calendar: go.niu.edu/bot-calendar
- Business Procedures Directory: niu.edu/procedures
- Bursar's Office – How-to guides: go.niu.edu/bursar-training
- Campus Safety Notifications: go.niu.edu/sb
- Policy Library: niu.edu/policies
- Weather Updates: go.niu.edu/weather

Educational Opportunities

- Human Resource Services: Tuition waivers for educational credit or noncredit: go.niu.edu/tuition-waivers
- Lifelong Learning: go.niu.edu/LLI
- Teaching and Learning Workshops (in person and online): go.niu.edu/teaching-workshops
- World Languages and Cultures: niu.edu/world-languages
- Northern Illinois Digital Library: go.niu.edu/digital-library

Physical Wellness

- Recreation: niu.edu/recreation

Training Opportunities

- Center for Innovative Teaching and Learning: go.niu.edu/citl-events
- Employee Well-being Health Presentations and Training: go.niu.edu/eap-training
- Kaltura Support: calendar.niu.edu/citl
- Writing Across the Curriculum Workshops: go.niu.edu/writing-workshops
- Technology training: niu.edu/doiit/training

NIU Calendar

- Upcoming events listed on NIU homepage: calendar.niu.edu

Community Events

- DeKalb Chamber of Commerce: web.dekalb.org/events
- WNIJ/WNIU Community Events Calendar: go.niu.edu/public-radio-events

Confessions of a...Rookie Seasoned Huskie

Rookie: Karen Eaton
Department: Transportation Services
Title: Office Administrator
Hire Date: June 16, 2008

Good day, everyone, and welcome to this edition of Confessions of a Rookie ... I mean Seasoned Huskie. The **first** edition of Confessions of a Seasoned Huskie, at that.

Isn't this exciting? Oh, this is going to be so much fun!
Today we are speaking with Karen Eaton from transportation.

How are you doing today, Karen? How is transportation treating you? Well, no worries, you'll be wearing flip-flops and dancing on a beach in no time!

Let's get right to it, shall we? Given you're in transportation, tell us ... how many countries have you visited?

Seven. Last May we did a trip to Ireland. I would love to go back as well as get to Scotland.

Scotland! Now you're speaking my language ... No, wait ... I'm Irish... Hey — I bet you knew Eaton in Old English means island or river, right? I bet your Irish eyes are smiling now.

So, tell our readers, what is something that recently made you smile?

My boss.

Really? Chris is that funny, huh? I always took him for a serious person. If we keep with the serious theme; tell me; Are you related, distantly or otherwise, to anyone famous (who you would admit to, of course)?

The Wright Brothers!

Wow ... that's seven kinds of cool. You know they never married, right? Must be on their sister's side. Looking at today's modern transportation, can you tell me what is the biggest misconception people have about your current position at NIU?

That Transportation Services manages the Huskie Line bus service.

Right — that's the city of DeKalb, isn't it? Glad we could clear that up. All right, it's time we delve into the deepest party of your psyche with this next question, OK? Tell us, chocolate or vanilla?

Chocolate.

Huh...I thought for sure you were a vanilla person I mean, I'm very vanilla.

OK folks, that's all the time we have this go-round with Confessions of a Seasoned Huskie.

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

Benefit Choice Period Opens May 1-31, 2023

This program provides health, dental, vision and life insurance benefits to all full-time and eligible state employees of Illinois state government and the university system, along with retirees and annuitants who are eligible to participate in any of the five state retirement systems. Coverage also is extended to their eligible dependents. Active employees make premium contributions based on salary and plan selection.

Please be on the lookout for emailed information from Human Resource Services, and don't forget to check the [CMS Benefits page](#) for more information.

Sick Leave Bank

If you're a regularly appointed civil service, SPS or faculty member you can [participate in our sick leave bank](#). The bank assists employees who face major health crises and have used all other available benefits.

Employees may donate a minimum of one day of compensable sick leave to the sick leave bank. For those employees without any compensable sick leave, non-compensable accrued sick leave may be donated. For employees on less than 100% appointment, one day is determined based on your appointment percentage.

An employee who donates must have at least 10 days of accrued sick leave remaining for their personal use after donating one day. Remaining sick leave time is not reviewed for eligibility until the end of the fiscal year, June 30. Participation in the program is then established for the following fiscal year.

Subject to university policies, employees who donate to our sick leave bank under this program are eligible to request additional sick leave credits if paid leave benefits become exhausted while experiencing a qualifying illness or injury.

Employees in the sick leave bank are eligible for 45 days of additional sick leave or 1/3 of the sick leave bank, whichever is less at time of application.

There is an application process to receive additional sick days from the sick leave bank. Contact Human Resource Services with any questions and full details.

If you have not yet joined and would like to, you can [download and fill out the form](#) on the HRS website. Remember, you can only submit the form during the benefits choice period and only those who donate can pull from the bank.

Employment Changes

March 2023

Welcome New Employees

- Jessica Alex, Office Manager – College of Liberal Arts and Sciences
- Kailey Bednarek, Office Support Specialist – School of Interdisciplinary Health Professions
- Edward Bromett, IT Support Associate – Operation Services
- Julia Broome-Robinson, Program Advisor – Academic Advising Center
- Ulonda Carver, Storekeeper II – Residential Dining Service
- Philip Corvino, Program Coordinator – College of Education
- Kelsey Crawford-Scott, Program Advisor – Academic Advising Center
- Kayla Doane, Administrative Assistant – Graduate School
- Joslyn Drew, Program Advisor – Academic Advising Center
- Tommie Easterling, Parking Services Agent I – Parking Services
- Colleen Finn, Building Service Worker – Building Services
- Jonathan Handschuh, Building Service Worker – Building Services
- Stephanie Henricks, Program Coordinator – Libraries
- Brittani Holliday, Police Telecommunicator – Public Safety
- Christy Houle, Building Service Worker – Building Services
- Kathleen Hughes-James, Administrative Aide – Vice President Research and Innovation Partnerships
- Raymond Jenkins, Program Advisor – Academic Advising Center
- Christina Jeralds, Food Court/Snack Bar Supervisor – Campus Dining Service
- Anthony Lewis, Building Service Worker – Building Services
- Heather Lissman, Program Advisor – Academic Advising Center
- Gerald Meadows, Admissions/Records Coordinator – Registration and Records
- Edward Montavon, Building Service Worker – Building Services
- Giselle Navarro, Program Director – College of Health and Human Sciences
- Douglas Noack, Plumber Foreman – Physical Plant
- Matthew Outzen, Program Services Aide – Family and Consumer Sciences
- Shannon Peura, Senior Events Coordinator – Holmes Student Center
- Stephanie Price, Office Manager – Communication

- Sadia Qamar, Program Assistant – Asian American Resource Center
- Emily Ricker, Building Service Worker – Building Services
- Wade Rosebrook, Admissions/Records Representative – Graduate School
- Vanessa Saam, Office Manager – College of Health and Human Sciences
- Rachel Skog, Program Coordinator – Center for Southeast Asian Studies
- Maureen Stevens, Administrative Aide – Libraries
- Sarah Sweet, Program Advisor – Academic Advising Center
- Sarah Ward, Program Advisor – Academic Advising Center
- Jordan York, Program Coordinator – Center for Southeast Asian Studies

Retirements

- Kenneth George Jr., Assistant Director of Physical Plant – Physical Plant
- Wendy Ippel, Customer Service Assistant – Bursar

Separations

- Ulonda Carver, Storekeeper II – Residential Dining Service
- Tommie Easterling, Parking Services Agent I – Parking Services
- Michael Foster, Campus Recreation Coordinator – Intercollegiate Athletics
- Andrew Gregory, Security Guard – Public Safety
- Requiyah Hill, Main Desk Attendant – Holmes Student Center
- Neda Johnson, Human Resource Officer – Human Resource Services
- Sommer Laws, Building Service Worker – Building Services
- Colton Russell, Maintenance Repair Worker – Lorado Taft Operations
- Dillan Smith, Grounds Worker – Grounds
- Catherine Van Fleet, Police Telecommunicator – Public Safety
- Andrew Wojcik, Police Officer – Public Safety

April 2023

Welcome New Employees

- Cody Ainsley, IT Support Specialist – Operations Services
- Davin Bostic, IT Technical Associate – College of Liberal Arts and Sciences
- Steven Boyd, Electrician – Physical Plant
- Amy Boyles, Program Coordinator – History
- Aaron Dash, Sheet Metal Worker – Physical Plant
- Jacob Ellis, Food Service Sanitation Laborer – Residential Dining Service
- Walter Faber, Culinary Worker I – Residential Dining Service
- Mownica Ghanta, IT Technical Associate – Report Cards
- Sean Haag, Plumber – Physical Plant
- Shawnda Harris, Building Service Worker – Building Services
- Brian Hocking Jr., Electrician – Physical Plant
- Frank Judd, Locksmith – Physical Plant
- Brendan Lochbaum, Program Coordinator – Intercollegiate Athletics
- Dilllon Lynch, Police Officer – Public Safety
- William Nedrow, IT Support Associate – Operation Services
- Richard Niemi, Culinary Worker III – Residential Dining Service
- Andrew Pacius, IT Support Associate – Operation Services
- Bruce Powell, Electrician – Physical Plant
- Eli Samardzija, Steam and Power Plant I – Heating Plant
- Allie Shirar, Office Manager – College of Education
- Devin Stout, Building Service Worker – Building Services
- Kyle Wallace, Program Advisor – Intercollegiate Athletics
- Jason Wilkinson, Culinary Worker I – Residential Dining Service
- Melissa Ybarra-Robinson, Financial Aid Coordinator – Financial Aid and Scholarship Office

Separations

- Ana Barragan, Child Development Supervisor – Child Development and Family Center
- Kimberly Brinkmeier, Steam and Power Plant II – Heating Plant
- Karen Campbell, Administrative Assistant – College of Engineering and Engineering Technology
- Ronald Odom, Building Service Worker – Building Services
- Santosh Parajuli, IT Technical Associate – Report Cards
- Dahlia Roman, Program Coordinator – Family and Consumer Sciences
- John Whale, Administrative Aide – Intercollegiate Athletics
- Robert Williams, Police Officer – Public Safety

Service Awards

March 2023

5 Years

- Kailey Bednarek – School of Interdisciplinary Health Professions
- Jessica Cima – Anthropology
- Michael Haase – Intercollegiate Athletics
- Allyson Hague – Disability Resource Center
- Katelyn Heinekamp – Center for the Study of Women, Gender and Sexuality
- Kevin Lam – Procurement Services and Contract Management
- Jorie O'Brien – Military Student Services
- Bradford Thacker – Conferences Event Management
- Marc Thorson – DoIT-Admin-Business-Finance

10 Years

- Aaron Boyd – Grounds
- Josiah Hooker – Grounds
- Jake Hutchins – Grounds
- Joanna Kulma – Libraries
- Michael Merrill – Lorado Taft Operations
- Lan Mullenbach – Physical Plant
- Bradford Smith – Transportation
- Ryan Smith – Residential Dining Service

15 Years

- Dennis Grant – Public Safety
- Logan Halstead – Building Services
- Daniel Leifker – Public Safety

20 Years

- Ann Apple – College of Law

25 Years

- Yvette Lubbers – Campus Parking
- Kathryn Minick – Infrastructure Services
- Hope Montavon – Admissions Systems and Processing

April 2023

5 Years

- Renee Comeford – Health Services
- Jacklyn Joiner – Registration and Records
- Mark Kalal – Materials Management
- Jami Kunzer – Office of Institutional Communication
- Michael Montavon – Building Services

10 Years

- Cheryl Gardner – College of Education
- Belinda Roller – Architectural/Engineering Services

15 Years

- John Barnett – Public Safety
- Melissa Burlingame – Environmental Studies
- Amy Farranto – University Press

25 Years

- Mark Fagerstrom – Grounds
- David Holliday – Grounds
- Catina Maxwell – Libraries
- Drew VanderCreek – Libraries

35 Years

- Julie Miller – Vice President Research and Innovation Partnerships

Holmes Student Center (HSC) and Founders Memorial Library Dining Options for Summer 2023

This summer, unplug the coffee maker and leave your lunchbox at home, Campus Dining has you covered. [Starbucks](#), the [Grill at the Huskie Den](#) and [Einstein Bros. Bagels](#) offer summer hours. Weekdays, beginning Monday, May 15, Starbucks is open from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. and the Grill from 11 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Einstein Bros. is open 8 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Monday through Thursday, beginning May 30, the Tuesday following Memorial Day. Although meal exchange is not available, you can enjoy the summer lunch combo which includes a deli sandwich, chips and 16 oz. drink for only \$7.49. It's an awesome deal. All other locations are closed. This is a lot to remember, Huskies, so be sure to check out our [Where to Eat](#) page; it's a great way to keep track of locations, hours and payment types accepted. Here's to a happy and healthy summer.

Northern Staff News is published by the Operating Staff Council of Northern Illinois University.

Editor: Rave Meyer.

Contributors: Jay Monteiro, Holly Nicholson, Jason Reed, Karen Smith, Philip Terry.

Graphic Design: Holly Nicholson.

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niu.edu 5/23.