



Northern Illinois  
University

# Northern Staff News

July 2024

[niu.edu/operating-staff-council](http://niu.edu/operating-staff-council) | [osc@niu.edu](mailto:osc@niu.edu)

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**OSC Meetings and  
Minutes** can be found on  
our [OSC website](#).

If you have any  
suggestions for future  
articles, please send an  
email to  
[tgipson1@niu.edu](mailto:tgipson1@niu.edu).

## President's Corner



Happy Fiscal Year 2025! We made it. As I look back over the past fiscal year, I am amazed at what we have been able to accomplish as a university. It is important to write down as many of the accomplishments that you can to be able to remember the good things, especially when things may not look as bright.

We are overcoming some extreme obstacles. As reported in the announcements, “The NIU Board of Trustees met and approved NIU’s FY2025 budget that includes \$439.3M in expenses against \$423.9M in anticipated revenues. As a result, the anticipated budget deficit for FY2025 is \$15.4 million, a 52% reduction from the projected \$32.2M deficit in FY2024 and in line with the university’s goals. This projected reduction comes through a number of sources including a modest increase to AY2025 tuition, fees and housing and food; expanding our student housing capacity; improved retention; enlarging our community college partnership portfolio; and leveraging opportunities with our facilities, sales and services. The amount also includes \$8 million in one-time revenue from the sale of iFiber — a broadband network that NIU helped to found more than a decade ago to provide access to affordable and reliable high-speed connectivity in the region.”

I am referencing this information as it is important for you to know that the decision-makers are doing all that they can to make sure we, as a university, are balanced across all areas. Even given our fiscal situation, “The board approved both recommendations; eligible nonrepresented staff and faculty will receive 3% across-the-board salary increases to be implemented on, and effective, July 1, 2024.”

This should put you in the mindset that even through hard times, NIU is still making it a priority to take care of the people who help make this university a place where students want to be.

As we continue the road to balance, we will continue to remind everyone about our [Civil Service Emergency Fund](#). This fund exists to assist operating staff employees who are in a monetary crisis. While we have received donations in the past, we need your help to assist more employees who may be experiencing financial difficulties at this time. Thank you in advance for your willingness to donate. There is no amount too big or small; all donations are appreciated and welcomed. Here are a few ways you can donate: You can donate online at [go.niu.edu/civil-service-donation](http://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 60115-288

As always, be sure to take care of yourself. Consider taking some time off — if summer is a light load for you — so you can relax, regroup and recharge (R3) to be ready to welcome our students back for fall.

Take good care,

**Natasha Johnson**

President, Operating Staff Council 2023-2025

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## Events at NIU Over the Summer and Beyond

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If you're searching for something different, take a look at these interesting activities coming up. Hopefully you'll join a few.

- Now through Nov. 8, 2024: [Alebrijes - Creatures of a Dream World](#).
- July 27, 11 a.m.: [Saturday Bags](#) – \$5 per person.
- July 30, 2 p.m.: [HRS Campus Feedback Session](#).
- Aug. 6, 9:30 a.m.: [Electronic Requisitions Workshop](#).
- Aug. 9, 7:30 p.m.: [Comedian Brian Regan](#).
- Aug. 12, 6:30 p.m.: [Stargazing, Space and Missions to the Moon](#).
- Aug. 23, 11:30 a.m.: [CLAS Welcome Back Cookout](#).
- Aug. 25, 1 p.m.: [Fun in the Sun! A CHHS Week of Welcome Event](#).
- Aug. 27, 11 a.m.: [Tuesday Tech Tips – Teams Channel and @ Symbol](#).
- Aug. 27, 4 to 6 p.m.: [Latin Chill](#).
- Aug. 28, 11 a.m.: [Food Truck Wednesday Kickoff](#).
- Aug. 29, Noon: [Interdisciplinary Centers Open House](#).
- Sept. 11, 6:30 p.m.: [Critical Minerals: The Hidden Materials Required for Green Energy](#).
- Sept. 12, 11 a.m.: [Clerical Union Local 1890 Lagoonapalooza event](#).

## Summer Parking

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For those of you who need parking permits, summer permits are now available for purchase online. Current 2023-2024 permits are valid through Aug. 15, 2024. The new 2024-2025 annual permits became available for purchase online July 15. For more information on parking, please visit the [Parking Services website](#).

## Where to Eat?

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Are you hungry and wondering what's still open on campus during the summer? Check out our [Campus Dining website](#). It tells you the location and hours of where to find some scrumptious vittles. Happy eating!

## Confessions of a Rookie

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**Rookie:** Jarred Carlson

**Department:** Financial Aid and Scholarship Office

**Title:** Financial Aid Coordinator

**Hire Date:** Jan. 16, 2024

Good morning, everyone. Thanks for joining us as we get to know another one of our rookies. Jarred Carlson joins us from our Financial Aid and Scholarship Office. It's great to meet you, Jarred. How are you doing on this fine summer morning?

*Thanks for having me. I'm doing well.*

That's good to hear. So, let's get started. What made you want to come and work at NIU?

*I wanted to work at NIU because it has given me nothing but amazing opportunities. I grew up in Sycamore, Illinois, so I have been a hometown kid my entire life. I went to school here for four years, where I got my bachelor's degree and now, I am going back to get my master's. Working at NIU allows me to fulfil my purpose in helping others and showing students how great our university is.*

Wow! It sounds like you drank the Kool-Aid. So have I 😊. So many wonderful opportunities for students at our university. Now for some fun questions so we can get to know you better. How many pairs of shoes do you own?

*Twenty-seven.*

That's a lot! Tell us about your favorite pair.

*My favorite pair of shoes are a pair of Recycled Materials Air Force 1s. I am a huge Nike fan, so when they started their recycled material shoe line, I had to get a pair. I love these shoes because they have been through a lot of memories. They are my go-to shoe, and they can be styled up or styled down. They were white at one point, but with the journey that I have been on, it was all worth it to dirty them up.*

It sounds like you have a good connection with these shoes, but for good reasons. What's the best concert you took these shoes on.

*The best concert I have ever attended was Lollapalooza 2023 last summer. Although I love my shoes, I don't recall if they attended with me 😊.*

Ah, you wouldn't want to take sand to the beach, I guess. LOL! What made it the best concert?

*It was my first time going to Lollapalooza and I saw a lot of amazing bands, but I finally got to see my favorite band in the entire world which is The 1975. I have been wanting to see them for three years up to that point, so finally seeing them was a fantastic moment.*

It sounds like I have a new band to explore. I'm surprised I haven't heard of them given the almost reference to my birth year. In any case, Lollapalooza sounds like a great time. I've always loved that name. So, let's dig a little bit deeper into your experiences. What's the coolest thing (work/ home/hobby) you're working on right now?

*Sure, I'm happy to share more about myself. Right now, I am in the process of training to run my very first 10K.*

Wow! I barely made it when I used to walk 5K races. So, you must have terrific endurance to make it through a 10K. Of course, I didn't exactly train for it. I guess that's where I could have used some improvement. LOL! So, let's talk about something more up my alley since it's a sedentary activity — What are you currently watching on Netflix/Hulu/streaming?

*As of right now, I am watching "House of Dragon," but I am trying to get to watch "The Bear" because my friend won't stop bugging me until I do.*

Oh, I really want to see "House of Dragon"! I didn't expect to love "Game of Thrones" as much as I did, so getting more of the backstory will be nice. I haven't heard of "The Bear," but you'd better get on it and do your homework to prevent your friend from having a conniption fit. LOL! What is your talent that no one knows about, especially not the conniption-fit friend?

*I can quote the entire Jim Carrey's "How the Grinch Stole Christmas," and I have a pretty good Jerry Seinfeld impression.*

Very impressive! I can barely remember what happened last week. LOL! OK, let's move into some travel. Where is your favorite place in the world? What makes it so special?

*One of my favorite places in the world is Empower Field in Denver, Colorado. This is where the Denver Broncos play, which is my favorite sports team. I am not from Colorado, but my dad and I are die-hard Broncos fans. The stadium has beautiful views of the mountains, and it is a perfect place to cheer on our favorite football team. I have nothing but special memories from our trips to Denver, from watching Payton Manning break the all-time passing record, to watching them lose 34-10 against the Atlanta Falcons. Our trips to Empower Field never disappoint.*

It sounds like you've had some wonderful experiences there. The view sounds spectacular. OK, let's switch gears a bit. What actor/actress would play you in a movie of your life? What would it be called, and what would be the genre?

*I would probably say Michael J. Fox because I based my entire personality on Marty McFly. It would be called, "How to Expect the Unexpected: A Jarred Carlson Story." It would be a romcom where I fall in love with living life.*

Ah! I love Michael J. Fox! Maybe you'd fall in love with some Recycled Air Force 1s 😊. So, out of curiosity, what is your philosophy on life, other than to fall in love with living life (and shoes)?

*My philosophy on life is to always find something to smile about. This helps me with staying positive and it doesn't have to be something big. Even if you had a terrible day, there is always something that could make you crack even the smallest of smiles.*

What makes you crack a smile (other than this awesome interview)?

*I am all about laughter. Laughter is one of the most important things in my life, but the thing that makes me laugh the most is hanging with my sisters. We all just try to one-up each other and see who can make the biggest laugh. It is always a good time.*

How very sweet! One last question. If you had a warning label, what would it say?

*This guy talks way too much.*

Well, you said it, not me! In all seriousness, I greatly appreciate you opening up and sharing your experiences with me and the rest of the operating staff. I'll let you get back to your busy job (and Recycled Air Force 1s, not sure if that flies with the dress code). Have a great day everyone!

If you would like to volunteer to be featured as our next seasoned Huskie or rookie, please send an email to me at [tgipton1@niu.edu](mailto:tgipton1@niu.edu).

## Employment Changes

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### May 2024

#### Welcome New Employees

- Lori Arteaga, Program Assistant – P-20 Center
- Tara Dickson, Program Coordinator – Career Services
- Thomas Guzy, Building Service Worker – Building Services
- Scott Johansen, Program Assistant – Orientation and Family Connections
- James Kalas, Senior Business Manager – College of Liberal Arts and Sciences
- Robin Meier, Food Court/Snack Bar Supervisor – Campus Dining Service
- Emily Raetzke, Program/Student Advisor – Academic Advising Center
- Sean Raleigh, Office Manager – College of Law
- Dillan Smith, Grounds Worker – Grounds
- Bethany Van Der Lek, Sports Facilities Manager – Intercollegiate Athletics
- Jasmine Waller, Building Service Worker – Building Services
- Corie Wild, Office Administrator – Earth Atmosphere and Environment

#### Retirement

- Michele Crase, Safety/Environmental Compliance Associate – Environmental Health and Safety
- Craig Fritz, IT Technical Associate – Application Services

#### Separations

- Sean Briner, Main Desk Attendant – Holmes Student Center
- Zion Doke, Security Guard – Public Safety
- Garry Lafever Jr., Food Court/Snack Bar Supervisor – Campus Dining Service
- Giselle Navarro, Program Director – College of Health and Human Sciences
- Maureen Stevens, Administrative Aide – Libraries
- Devin Stout, Building Service Worker – Building Services
- Allison von Ende, Program Coordinator – Huskie Academic Support Center
- Jason Vong, IT Technical Associate – Bursar

### June 2024

#### Welcome New Employees

- Waleed Abdelshakour, Internal Auditor Assistant Manager – Internal Auditor
- Jenna Blayney, Program/Student Advisor – Special and Early Education
- Derek Chimenti, Cinematographer/Creative Video Producer – Integrated Media Technologies
- Philip Corvino, Program/Student Advisor – Curriculum and Instruction
- Meghan Escamilla, Special Events Facilitator – Alumni Services
- Laura Fehling, Program Coordinator – P-20 Center
- Shannon Gates, Program/Student Advisor – Operating Management and Information Systems
- Kelsey Johnson, Program Director – DoIT-Admin-Business-Finance
- Karla Ortega, Events Coordinator – Holmes Student Center
- Alicia Richardson, Customer Service Assistant – Bursar
- Nicole Schafer, Program/Student Advisor – Academic Advising Center
- Nicholas Wotruba, Mailing Equipment Operator/Expediter II – Materials Management

#### Retirement

- Kimberly Keith, Building Service Worker – Building Services

#### Separations

- Neil Daly, Office Administrator – Curriculum and Instruction



- Anna Forba, Administrative Aide – Counseling and Consultation Services
- Chloe Fu, Safety/Environmental Compliance Associate – Environmental Health and Safety
- Kristy Johns, Public Information Associate – Illinois Manufacturing Excellence Center
- Robert Kazlauski, Program Services Specialist – Center for Child Welfare and Education
- Feryal Khan, Program/Student Advisor – Academic Advising Center
- James Spencer, Administrative Aide – Allied Health and Communicative Disorders

## Service Awards

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### May 2024

#### 5 Years

- Lauren GrimmLane – Academic Advising Center
- Amanda Hirsch – Center for Innovative Teaching and Learning
- Carissa Hunt-Gioe – Campus Dining Service
- Lorrienne Marshall – Theatre and Dance
- Lydia Mueller – College of Liberal Arts and Sciences
- Shannon Puera – Holmes Student Center
- Krishna Rayanapati – Report Cards
- Maria Rodriguez – P-20 Center
- Gloria Rosales – P-20 Center

#### 10 Years

- Zhuomingna Li – Report Cards

#### 15 Years

- Megan Gerken – College of Education
- Angélica Mendoza – Undocumented Student Resource Center

#### 20 Years

- Debra Woolbright – Economics

#### 25 Years

- Anthony Barry – Building Services

#### 30 Years

- Neil Colwell – University Marketing

### June 2024

#### 5 Years

- Vincent Civitello – Holmes Student Center
- Marcella Cox – Health and Humans Sciences Survey Research Lab
- James Fitzjarrell III – Architectural/Engineering Services
- Reina Franco – P-20 Center
- Sarah Goshko – Holmes Student Center
- Desmond Jesu – Application Services
- Constance Kalsch – Application Services
- Sarah Masson – Child Development and Family Center
- Peter Medlin – Northern Public Radio
- Claire Mogren – Sponsored Programs Administration
- Eva Richards – College of Business
- Srinivasa Samula – Application Services
- Conner Vagle – Esports Network
- Kira Walker – Registration and Records

#### 10 Years

- Gus Panourgias – Building Services
- Catherine Schaff – Educator Licensure and Preparation
- Donna Siegmeier – Bursar

## 15 Years

- Michael Gillespie – Report Cards

## 25 Years

- Phuong-Yung Cong-Huyen – Application Services
- Emily Cronauer – Marketing

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