

UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-EXTENSION
UNIVERSITY STAFF COUNCIL

"THE CONNECTION"

UNIVERSITY STAFF APPRECIATION DAY—ICE CREAM SOCIAL!

Monday, September 28, 2015 has been designated as University Staff Appreciation Day. Ice cream will be served to UW-Extension University Staff (previously Classified Staff) at five locations in Madison:

5602 Research Park, Room 10
Lowell Center, 610 Langdon Street, Upper Lounger
Vilas Hall, 821 University Avenue, Buck Studio (7th Floor)
780 Regent Street, Room 126A&B
432 North Lake Street, Extension Building, Fitch Court entrance (or B121 if inclement weather)

Please join your fellow University Staff colleagues as you are served a bowl of ice cream (syrup and Oreo toppings available). Administrators of the various divisions will be serving. Chancellor Cathy Sandeen will stop in at the Extension Building event between 12:00-12:30pm and President Ray Cross is expected to stop over at the Lowell Center between 12:00-12:30pm to say hello.

Door prizes will be available and University Staff Council members will be on hand if you have any questions. If you can't drop by for ice cream at any of the five locations, please partake in the door prize drawings by submitting your work contact information (name, address, email and phone number) to Suzanne Samuelsen, suzanne.samuelsen@uwex.edu.

CALL FOR NOMINATIONS TO SERVE ON THE UNIVERSITY STAFF COUNCIL

The call for nominations for serving on the University Staff Council was issued via email on September 11, 2015. The function of the Council is to serve as the official channel of communication between the University Staff and all institution offices and bodies including the Chancellor, Faculty Senate, and Academic Staff Council. The Council also represents UW-Extension University Staff in recommending policies, procedures and practices applicable to University Staff. For a complete description of the functions and duties of the University Staff Council, please reference UW-Extension University Staff Council Bylaws found at: <http://www.uwex.edu/secretary/classified-staff-council.html>. Council members are expected to attend monthly Council meetings.

Nominations are due September 25, 2015. You are invited to nominate yourself or a colleague by completing the nomination form attached to the September 11 email. If you would like to nominate a colleague, please get their permission to do so.

2015 CHANCELLOR'S AWARDS RECIPIENTS

We want to congratulate two UW-Extension University Staff members who received a 2015 Chancellor Award recently at the annual award banquet on Thursday, September 17, 2015.

Jane Marquardt, Office Manager, 4-H Youth Development, Cooperative Extension, received a Career Award which honors a currently active employee whose UW Colleges or UW-Extension career has been marked by consistently outstanding and significant program, administrative or support contributions for more than a decade. Jane is recognized for her commitment, insights and technical skills instrumental in streamlining grant applications, facilitating successful grant applications and training and supporting staff for over 23 years.

Mary A. Reines, Executive Staff Assistant, Office of the Provost and Vice Chancellor, received an Award for Excellence which recognizes the outstanding performance of UW Colleges and UW-Extension individual employees and teams. Mary is recognized for managing the Provost Office efficiently and effectively, with creativity and boundless energy, and for serving as a powerful resource and champion for UW-Extension.

Congratulations Jane and Mary!

UPCOMING CHANGES TO HEALTH INSURANCE BENEFITS

The "It's Your Choice Open Enrollment" is scheduled for October 5-30, 2015. There are numerous changes to the State Employees program.

- You will need to meet a medical deductible before your health plan will start paying towards certain medical expenses (Except for office visits).
- You will pay a copayment for office visit.
- You will pay coinsurance instead of copayments for certain prescription drugs.
- Out-of-pocket limits are increasing.
- Dental benefits will no longer be offered through your health plan. Rather, the Uniform Dental Benefit will be offered by Delta Dental.

Premium rates for the University of Wisconsin System have not yet been set. For further information, visit <http://etf.wi.gov/news/ht-2016health-rate-announces.htm>. There is a listing of "Frequently Asked Questions" at the bottom of that page. Also, watch for the "It's Your Choice Open Enrollment" information in the next week or so.

WHAT'S NEXT?

The Communications subcommittee will continue to distribute pertinent information related to issues affecting University Staff (previously "Classified Staff"). We will use this newsletter, the website, and email as our primary means of communication. Also, we will continue to work on planning events for University Staff members including potential professional development opportunities.