

Spring 2016 Newsletter

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Message from the Chair

Spring is here...well, almost!

As we bid a fond farewell to winter quarter. Thank you for helping make our winter food drive a huge success. We collected food and monetary donations for the non-profit organization Blessings in a Backpack, which is the 2016 beneficiary for Northwestern University Dance Marathon. We also partnered with several churches in the Evanston and Chicago communities. With our combined efforts we were able to provide food for all 260 children at St. Malachy School in Chicago. This food helped sustain the children for their entire spring break.

I would also like to thank everyone who attended our 3rd Annual Men's Basketball staff mixer on February 27th. It was exciting to see the school spirit from the 225 staff members cheering on our Wildcats! Details will be available soon for the upcoming spring quarter staff outing.

Spring is always a busy season for NUSAC. We just wrapped up our application period to recruit new members for next year. We received 21 applications. This is an all-time record for NUSAC. In May, we will be interviewing candidates for open positions on the Council. I am so excited to see such a huge number of staff commit to continuing to making Northwestern a great place to work, learn and grow.

On April 21st & April 26th NUSAC will host Conversations with the President. President Morton Schapiro will report on the state of the University. In addition, the President will be joined by his senior leadership team in a moderated Question and Answer (Q&A) panel on noteworthy issues, such as diversity and inclusion initiatives and campus development projects. Questions or comments may be emailed to nusac@northwestern.edu in advance or during the live events.

Spring also brings the annual Staff Service Recognition Luncheon. During winter, staff members across all campuses nominate colleagues who have gone above and beyond the call of duty. From that pool, the Employee of the Year will be named on May 10th. We will also honor staff members who have been with the University for 20, 30, 40, and even 50 years!

I continue to encourage you to visit the NUSAC website or to contact us at nusac@northwestern.edu to learn more about how we can support you. Have a wonderful spring quarter.

Sincerely,

Tracey Gibson-Jackson
NUSAC Chair



Tracey Gibson-Jackson

Conversations with President Schapiro

The Northwestern University's Staff Advisory Council (NUSAC) and the Office of the President invite you to this year's Conversations with President Schapiro:



Thursday, April 21, 2016

10:00 - 11:30 a.m.
Hughes Auditorium
303 East Superior Street, Chicago

Tuesday, April 26, 2016

10:00 - 11:30 a.m.
McCormick Foundation Center
1870 Campus Drive, Evanston

President Morton Schapiro will report on the state of the University. In addition, the President will be joined in a moderated Question and Answer (Q&A) panel on noteworthy issues, including diversity and inclusion initiatives and campus development projects by:

Nim Chinniah, Executive Vice President
Daniel Linzer, University Provost
Patricia Telles-Irvin, Vice President of Student Affairs
Philip Harris, Vice President and General Counsel

All members of the Northwestern community are invited to participate.

Both events will be webcast live at www.northwestern.edu/president/speeches/conversations-with-the-president.html. Questions or comments may be emailed to nusac@northwestern.edu in advance or during the live events.

For more information and other NUSAC news, visit www.northwestern.edu/nusac.

Northwestern University is committed to providing reasonable accommodations for all events and programs. Accommodations such as Sign Language interpreters, accessible seating, and presentation materials in alternate format are provided upon request. Please contact NUSAC at nusac@northwestern.edu or call Rhea Banks, NUSAC Vice Chair, at 312.503.0725 by April 7. Every reasonable effort will be made to implement accommodations in an effective and timely manner.

NU Cares Awareness Campaign Results and Increased Award Amount

The NUSAC Benefits Committee is pleased to announce that this year's NU Cares awareness campaign was a great success. The fund received over \$1000 in one-time contributions, plus enough in new monthly contributions to generate almost \$5000 per year!

Thanks to this increase in available funding, we have been able to raise the award amount from \$500 to \$750, allowing us to provide greater support for colleagues in need.

Thank you to all of the generous faculty and staff who have (and continue to) contribute to the NU Cares fund. Although this year's official campaign has ended, you can contribute at any time by following the instructions on [our website](#).

If you could benefit from the assistance this program provides, please [submit an application](#).

Blessings-In-A-Backpack Recap

This spring, we had another amazing show of generosity by Northwestern staff for "Blessings in a Backpack". This was the second year we have participated on behalf of St. Malachy's school to gather food in backpacks to send home with children during spring break. It's difficult for most of us to imagine that if we didn't go to school, we wouldn't have enough food, but that's a reality for many Chicago-area children. During the drive, which ran from mid-February to mid-March, we received so many donations that we needed to rent a van to get all of those laden backpacks to their destination -- a decidedly a good "problem" to have!



If you missed the "Blessings" drive this time around, but would still like to make a monetary donation, you may do so using the link below. There is a field for specifying a specific school, if you wish for your donation to go to St. Malachy's. You can also indicate "on behalf of", and show your Wildcat pride by indicating that the donation is on behalf of Northwestern or NUSAC. Any amount would be greatly appreciated. While our drive has ended, hunger knows no deadline!

getinvolved.blessingsinabackpack.org/make-a-donation3

NUSAC would like to thank all of those who showed true Northwestern spirit with their generous contributions, as well as the countless people who aided us in transporting items from the collection sites to the van and getting everything loaded. It was a great workout!

Thank you again for your help and generosity!

Celebrate the 22nd Annual "Take Our Daughters & Sons to Work Day" at Northwestern

This year's "Take Our Daughters & Sons to Work Day" will be held on April 28, 2016. The event is open to friends and family ages 8 - 16 of Northwestern faculty and staff. This year's theme is "Sparking Aha! Moments". During the day, the children will take part in three workshops built around a STEM curriculum, combining math and science with fun. These four tracks, along with class descriptions and links to registration, are available on the [event's website](#).

Volunteers

Volunteers are needed in both Evanston and Chicago. Please consider signing up to volunteer for this exciting event! [Sign up to volunteer](#)

Registration

Registration opens March 30th and ends April 13th. The registration fee is \$15 per child and \$15 per adult. There will be an option on the registration page to pay the fee via payroll deduction or via personal check. (Checks should be made payable to Northwestern University and mailed to Eleanor Aquino, HR/Benefits, 720 University Place, Evanston).

For more information about this event, please visit the [event's website](#) or contact Margaret Mersch, Benefits Financial Manager, at 847.491.2992 or mmersch@northwestern.edu.

New Online Tuition Benefits Application

A new FASIS Self Service tuition benefit application is now available all employees who are eligible for tuition benefits. This new online application features:

- Easy access to submit and track your tuition benefit applications in the FASIS Self Service Portal
- The ability to upload your documentation for all tuition benefits
- Access to view your current and past tuition benefit applications in one convenient location

Using the Online Application:

1. Log in to the FASIS Self Service Portal at nupa.northwestern.edu with your NetID and Password.
2. Select "My Benefits" and choose "My Tuition Benefit Application."
3. Follow the instructions to complete your application and upload your documentation.

For additional assistance, please contact the Benefits Division at (847) 491-7513 or educational-assistance@northwestern.edu.

Northwestern Wellness

YourLife is the wellness program for Northwestern faculty and staff, and their eligible family members.

Through YourLife, you can access a wide-variety of programs & services, resources, reading materials, and discounts, which can help you make thoughtful, positive choices supporting your physical, financial, and emotional well-being:

- **Physical Well-being** - These programs & services, resources, reading materials, and discounts can help you set and achieve personal fitness, nutritional, and health goals. They can also provide important information to help you use (and get more out of) your Northwestern-sponsored health care services and benefits - from annual checkups to following age- and gender-recommended screenings and immunizations.
- **Financial Well-being** - These programs & services, resources, reading materials, and discounts can promote a better understanding of your personal finances (where your money comes from and where it goes), describe the benefits of having a long-term financial plan tailored to your individual needs and goals, and support your ability to adapt to financial changes.
- **Emotional Well-being** - These programs & services, resources, and reading materials can help you cope with the demands of work and personal life, as well as the challenges that can arise in everyday life. The support these programs provide can help you take positive action to resolve personal issues and to manage stress.

While the name "YourLife" is new, many of the wellness-related programs & services, resources, reading materials, and discounts available under the YourLife banner are not. YourLife was created to provide a common identity linking all of the Northwestern-sponsored programs & services, resources, and discounts available to faculty and staff, and their eligible family members - those that currently exist and those that will be added in the future.

To learn more about YourLife and the programs & services, resources, and discounts it offers, visit:
www.northwestern.edu/yourlife/

Service Excellence Awards

For times when "thank you" just isn't enough - when a staff member went above and beyond the call of duty to complete a task or meet a goal - there's the Service Excellence Award. Any member of the University community may nominate an employee for the award. The supervisor reviews the nomination form to confirm that the award is deserved. A staff member may be recognized numerous times, even in a single year, and many have been.

Quarterly Service Excellence Luncheons 2016

Service Excellence Luncheons are held quarterly throughout the year to recognize award recipients. The next Service Excellence Luncheon will be held Tuesday, April 12, 2016.

To nominate a staff member, download a [Service Excellence Nomination Form](#) and email it to Maudell Gaines at maudell-gaines@northwestern.edu.

Excellence in Sustainability Awards

As Northwestern University pursues its commitment to leadership in sustainability, the Office of Sustainability is partnering with the Office of Human Resources - Employee Recognition to acknowledge those who go above and beyond in greening our campuses and our curriculum. Students, faculty, and staff members are eligible for the Excellence in Sustainability Awards and will be recognized at the quarterly Service Excellence Luncheons. Visit the [Office of Sustainability](#) website to learn more about the award and nomination process.

Northwestern University Staff Advisory Council

Contact NUSAC:

Web site: www.northwestern.edu/nusac

E-mail: nusac@northwestern.edu

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