



PennState
College of Engineering

Staff Advisory Committee News



COMMUNITY NEWS

Please Welcome our New Committee Members



Pam Koleno

Dean's Office/Education



Erin Rogers

Electrical Engineering



Michelle Hill

Civil & Environmental Engineering

Welcome to the 2018 SAC Executive Committee



Serena Sidwell

Chair



Jenna Sieber

Secretary



Jetta McClenahan

Treasurer



Eric Sohn

Vice Chair



Kelly Caviston

Assistant Secretary



Pam Koleno

Assistant Treasurer

Brown Bag Lunch and Learn

We would like to thank the College of Engineering Library for the great January Lunch and Learn.

March's Lunch and Learn is the first in a three part series:

Overall Wellness

When: Tuesday, March 27

Time: 12 noon - 1:00 p.m.

Location: 125 Reber Building

Mark your calendars for the remaining two events in the series will be:

Tuesday, April 17 - Nutrition/Healthy Eating

Tuesday, May 22 - Physical Activity

Please note: You may join for one, two or all three of these Brown Bag Lunch and Learn events!

Register by emailing coestaffadvcommittee@engr.psu.edu.

Want to Know More About SAC?

Visit our [website!](#)

4th Annual Staff Advisory Committee Awards Ceremony

In November, we celebrated our time at Penn State with our College of Engineering SAC Awards Ceremony, recognizing our amazing staff who met continuous service record markers.

As always, a special thanks to Kate Myers who was on hand to take photographs of the event. You can access the photos on [Flickr](#).



Engineering Staff and Dependent Education Award

The Engineering Staff and Dependent Education award provides financial assistance to full-time College of Engineering staff or their dependents to be used for educational expenses in any discipline at any Penn State location.

Nominations will be accepted from engineering staff members February 15 to April 30, 2018. To apply, submit a one-page essay describing the educational goals of the nominee (staff member, spouse, or child), along with the nominee's Penn State student ID number, to coestaffadvccommittee@engr.psu.edu.

The recipient(s) will be selected by the Engineering Staff Advisory Committee in consultation with the Senior Associate Dean. The recipient will receive \$500 that will be deposited directly into his or her Penn State student account for use during the upcoming academic year.

Those not selected will be notified and may re-apply the following year. *A recipient may receive this award only once.*

For more information on how to apply or to donate to the award, contact the Staff Advisory Committee at coestaffadvccommittee@engr.psu.edu.

NEW! Engineering Staff of the Semester Award

Is there someone in the College of Engineering that you feel deserves additional recognition? Would you like to be more involved in acknowledging the success of others? Then nominating someone for the new **Staff of the Semester Award** is just for you!

The purpose of this award is to recognize a full-time College of Engineering staff or technical service employee who has made steps towards advancing the mission of the Staff Advisory Committee: facilitating communication, nurturing a spirit of community, increasing recognition opportunities for staff members, and promoting personal and professional growth.

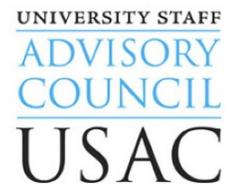
We are accepting Spring nominations now through March 15, 2018. Fill out the [nomination form](#) and email it to the Staff Advisory Committee at coestaffadvccommittee@engr.psu.edu.

University Staff Advisory Committee Accepting Nominations

And speaking of award opportunities...

Penn State's University Staff Advisory Council (USAC) is seeking nominations for its annual Staff Recognition Awards. The awards are a way for USAC to help the University community express its gratitude for the contribution of staff across the commonwealth. Faculty, staff, administrators,

and students are asked to nominate Penn State staff members from every campus and all work units whom they feel exemplify the traits and abilities specified in each award. The awards are for Staff Excellence, Staff Morale, and Staff Leadership.



Nominations can be submitted **online** no later than Thursday, March 1, 2018.

For more information, contact USAC at askUSAC@psu.edu.

Support SAC. Donate Today!

IMPORTANT DATES

IMPORTANT DATES

Mar 1: **USAC Staff Excellence, Morale, and Leadership awards nomination deadline**
Mar 4-10: **Spring Break - No Classes**
Mar 15: **Spring 2018 Staff of the Semester award nomination deadline**
Apr 26: **Administrative Professionals' Day**
Apr 30: **Engineering Staff and Dependent Education Award deadline**
Apr 30-May 4: **Finals Week**
May 4-6: **Commencement**

FACULTY LETTER

Letter by Elizabeth Kisenwether, Assistant Professor, SEDTAPP (ret.)

I'm pleased to provide this letter of support and recognition for the staff of the School of Engineering Design, Technology and Professional Programs (SEDTAPP) in the College of Engineering. I worked in SEDTAPP for 15 years - it was my Penn State home.

First, some background about SEDTAPP to help provide a sense of scope. First, SEDTAPP's faculty teach approximately 27 sections of EDSGN100 each fall and spring semester, and 6 sections each summer, with 32 students in each section - that's roughly 1,900 first-year students per year, all in classrooms on the 3rd floor of Hammond Building. Second, SEDTAPP is home to the College of Engineering's First-Year Seminar program, two undergraduate minors, three undergraduate certificates, two Master's degrees in Design, two Master's degrees in Engineering Leadership, two graduate minors, and is responsible for the courses that support these programs. Third, SEDTAPP is the administrative office for the undergraduate engineering programs and tenure and promotion for all the engineering faculty at the Penn State Commonwealth and College campuses. Fourth, SEDTAPP staff help hire and pay dozens of undergraduate and graduate TAs each semester. Finally, SEDTAPP faculty have funded research from NIH, NSF, DARPA and industry.

Bottom line: SEDTAPP has an amazingly broad scope of roles and responsibilities. It is my firm belief that it is the dedicated staff that make SEDTAPP meet all the demands placed on it and also make SEDTAPP a fun place to work. Staff ensure that course enrollments are managed and optimized. Staff keep the computer and design labs running 24/7, even with almost continuous use. Staff help with faculty's sometimes ridiculous travel requests, both in arranging travel and reconciling travel expenses for complicated international trips....and do it with patience and grace. Staff provide detailed summaries of research and project budgets, generally without being asked, and tolerate the always-challenging end of fiscal year crunch. Finally, SEDTAPP staff do all the work for three

wonderful annual events which are food-fests for everyone: a themed, costumed Halloween party, National Engineer's Week and December Holiday Party.

Thank you, SEDTAPP staff, for helping to create a productive, fun and welcoming workplace. You are the unsung heroes for dozens of faculty and thousands of students each year. Give yourselves a pat on the back!

BENEFITS SPOTLIGHT

Educational Privileges

All faculty, staff and retirees who have a dependent child or spouse receiving or applying for the Grant-In-Aid tuition discount benefit:

Please be aware that you MUST complete a new Grant-In-Aid form prior to EACH semester or summer session in which the Grant-In-Aid is to be applied. Grant-In-Aid will not be applied retroactively to previous semesters. Active faculty, staff and Teamster members - click on the appropriate button above to access the online Grant-In-Aid form. Retirees must complete a paper form, which is located in the Retiree tab of the Employee Benefits website.

Please contact the Employee Benefits Division if you have any questions regarding the Grant-in-Aid benefit. After your request is approved, you will see the discount reflected on your next student account statement in LionPATH.

If you have not already completed Dependent Verification with our business partner, AON Hewitt, you will be required to do so in order to maintain the dependent tuition discount. A packet of information and instructions will be mailed to your home address and you will have 90 days to complete the process.

For more details about the dependent verification program please refer to the [OHR website](#). Dependents who do not successfully complete the verification will have the tuition discount removed from their accounts and will be responsible for the entire tuition amount.

CAREER RESOURCES

Upcoming Seminars & Workshops

Visit the [Human Resources website](#) for full program details and to register. If you have any questions, please contact Workplace Learning at (814) 865-8216 or email them at learning@psu.edu.

Course Name	Date	Campus/Format
<u>Sexual Harassment: Awareness and Prevention</u>	2/13/2018	University Park
<u>Purchasing Card Reconciler Training</u>	2/21/2018	Adobe Connect
<u>Developing Intercultural Competency: Knowledge Part I</u>	2/22/2018	University Park
<u>StaySAFE: Surviving an Active Shooter</u>	2/22/2018	University Park
<u>Budget Basics</u>	2/27/2018	Adobe Connect

<u>Subtle Slights: Understanding the Impact of Unconscious Bias and Microaggressions</u>	2/28/2018	University Park
<u>Developing Intercultural Competency: Knowledge Part II</u>	3/19/2018	University Park
<u>Safety and Security for Office Personnel</u>	3/20/2018	University Park
<u>More than Budget Basics</u>	3/26/2018	Adobe Connect
<u>Sexual Harassment: Awareness and Prevention</u>	4/6/2018	University Park
<u>Budget Basics</u>	4/11/2018	University Park
<u>The Power of Allyship</u>	4/11/2018	University Park
<u>Purchasing Card Reconciler Training</u>	4/17/2018	Adobe Connect
<u>More than Budget Basics</u>	5/2/2018	Adobe Connect

STAFF STAR



Lori Yarger

Record Specialists 3

Mechanical and Nuclear Engineering

Ms. Lori Yarger has given more than 20 years of joyous and extraordinary service to the students of Penn State's College of Engineering. Lori is among the most giving, positive, and enthusiastic people most of us will ever meet. Her dedication to the students is unsurpassed as is her team spirit and great attitude.

Mechanical and Nuclear Engineering (MNE) serves over 1,100 undergraduate juniors and seniors while offering over 300 class sections per year. She is the primary point of contact for all undergraduate advising and records for this entire group. Nearly every MNE student will seek Ms. Yarger's guidance any number of times during their undergraduate careers to solve a vast array of academic issues and problems.

Lori's one-in-a-million demeanor and personality allow her to immediately connect with students with heartfelt empathy for whatever the problem, big or small. Her entire character is steeped in Penn State pride and love for our undergrads. Our students sometimes find themselves in difficult circumstances, dealing with everything from failing grades to mental health issues to legal trouble. She has a magical gift of working with students to solve very thorny issues while simultaneously providing reassurance and moral support. I have watched her calm the frazzled nerves of many a panicking student.

Ms. Yarger has an infectious good-natured and thoughtful personality. She not only handles an enormous amount of work, but does so with a friendly smile and patient professionalism. In many cases she uses her initiative and experience to solve problems before they even pop up. She helped all of MNE through the transition to LionPath, Canvas, and Starfish while doing her own job as well as, for the past few months, many of the duties of a vacant position.

Lori is an extraordinary employee, a fine person, and a role model within the College of Engineering. She has made a profound difference to Penn State's engineering students.

**Do you have something to submit to our quarterly eNews
or an event or story you'd like to see included?**

[Click here](#) to submit your story, photo, or event.
Submissions are due by April 1, 2017 for the next issue.



PennState
College of Engineering

STAY CONNECTED:

