



PennState
College of Engineering

Staff Advisory Committee News



COMMUNITY NEWS

Please Welcome Our New Vice Chair and Committee Members



Serena Sidwell
Vice Chair
Dean's Office

Bill Ames
Engineering Science & Mechanics



Jane Horetsky
Chemical Engineering



Erik Sohn
Penn State Facilities Engineering Institute



Loretta Whitman
Computer Science & Engineering

September's Brown Bag Lunch and Learn

Mark your calendar now for September's staff inspired learning opportunity. We have covered the topics of Inclusion and Workplace Bullying to date and would love to hear your thoughts on new learning opportunities.

Please email your ideas to coestaffadvcommittee@engr.psu.edu.

September Lunch and Learn
Friday, September 29, 2017
12:00-1:00pm
125 Reber Building

Register by email: coestaffadvcommittee@engr.psu.edu.

Engineering Staff and Dependent Education Award

Please join us in congratulating our 2017 Engineering Staff and Dependent Education Award winners. This award provides financial assistance to full-time College of Engineering staff or their dependents for educational expenses at Penn State.

2017 Awardees

Ryan Blonski, son of Jill Blonski, Architectural Engineering
Carly Blonski, daughter of Jill Blonski, Architectural Engineering
Andrew Caviston, son of Kelly Caviston, Mechanical and Nuclear Engineering
Matt Mueller, son of Nanita Woodbridge, Academics, Advising, and Global Programs
Eric Petrine, son of Lisa Petrine, Industrial and Manufacturing Engineering

Look for an announcement in Spring 2018 to submit your application.

See Pictures of the Staff Advisory Committee Ice Cream Social

It is always nice to have the opportunity to interact and share some laughs with the College of Engineering community in a more informal setting, especially after another busy academic year. As an added bonus, Kate Myers was on hand to take photographs of the event. View them on the [College's Flickr page](#).

Did You Miss June's Lunch and Learn? Watch it on YouTube!

June's Lunch and Learn was a big success! If you were unable to attend, watch the presentation on [YouTube](#) and think about these discussion questions:

What was the the most important concept you learned from this talk?
What are some of the ways you can be -- or encourage -- open mindedness at Penn State?

Want to Know More About SAC?

Visit our [website](#)!

Support SAC. Donate Today!

IMPORTANT DATES

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August 12: **Summer Undergraduate and Graduate Commencement Ceremony**
August 18-19: **Fall Arrival Day for New Students**
August 21: **Fall Classes Begin**
September 4: **Labor Day Holiday**
September 29: **SAC Lunch and Learn**
November (TBD): **SAC Annual Staff Awards Reception**
November 23: **Thanksgiving Holiday**
December 22, 25-29; January 1: **Winter Break**

FACULTY LETTER

Letter by Dr. M. Jeya Chandra

I am writing this statement in support of the outstanding staff members in the College of Engineering and in the Department of Industrial and Manufacturing Engineering. I am very happy and excited to write this statement for all the staff in the College and in my department, because I have known most of these fine individuals during the last thirty-seven years and I think very highly of them.

I have worked as the Graduate Program Coordinator and the Professor in Charge of Academic Programs in the Department of Industrial and Manufacturing Systems Engineering. I have to interact with these superb people in both these capacities, and as a faculty member. I have been immensely impressed with their knowledge, efficiency and skill. Our department has a large number of undergraduate and graduate students and we faced problems sometimes due to negligence on the part of the students and myself. I am always confident that any one of these exemplary staff members would be able to solve the problems efficiently and patiently. They are always very pleasant, professional and helpful. These impressions of mine are also shared by my colleagues who deal with this extraordinary group of staff. I also learnt from the conversations I had with our undergraduate and graduate students that these staff also are always very helpful to the students. These staff have to deal with not only domestic graduate students, but also international students for most of whom, Penn State is the first place in the U.S. they have visited. I have concluded from my talks with the international students in our department that they have such a positive impression of the U.S., because of the fantastic treatment they receive from the staff members in the College and our department. It is not an exaggeration to say that the College of Engineering is a benchmark for all other colleges at Penn State, because of the exemplary performance of these outstanding staff members and the integrity and dedication with which they carry out their duties.

In conclusion, I very strongly commend the staff members in the College and our department. It is very difficult not to use seemingly superlative adjectives to describe these staff members; they truly deserve these adjectives.

COLLEGE NEWS

Summer Tech Courses Open to Make You "Super" Heading into Fall

College of Engineering faculty and staff have the opportunity to take courses on topics ranging from Microsoft Excel to Adobe Photoshop throughout the summer and start off the fall semester with professional development goals nabbed.

Courses can be found on the [NCTS Training site](#). The current schedule lists sessions through the end of August.



**New COE Staff
Technology Orientation**
1st Tuesday of Each Month
1:30 - 3:00 pm
153J Hammond

PennState
College of Engineering
NETWORKING, COMPUTING,
AND TRAINING SERVICES

Contact Us To Register
training@enr.psu.edu
www.ncts.psu.edu/training

The NCTS Training Services

The training team at NCTS provides software training and support to all Engineering faculty and staff members. Assistance is available for a wide range of applications and technology topics.

Each month, they host a session specifically for newcomers to the college. The Technology

Orientation training is designed to give a big-picture view of the COE computing environment and connect a new user to technology resources.

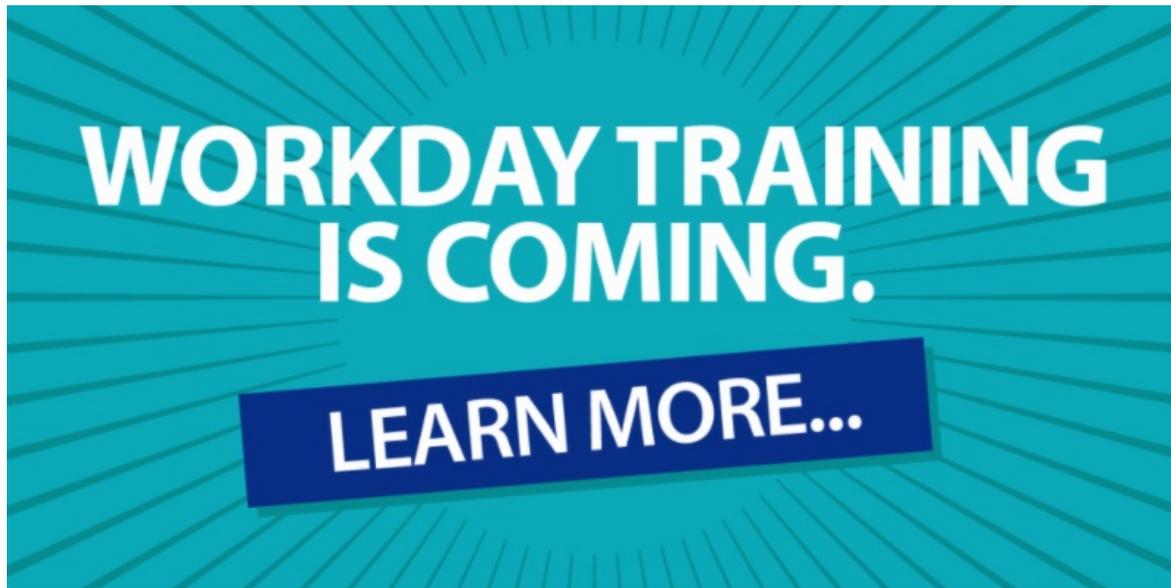
A more recent addition to the schedule is the Tech Bites Series. Tech Bites are short-topic technology sessions paired with a yummy treat, like a snack-sized lunch and learn! View the Tech Bites Schedule to learn more and register.

Visit the Training Schedule to see the upcoming training sessions. Problem-specific support is available via email, phone, in person, or via remote connection.

The training team can be reached at training@enr.psu.edu.

UNIVERSITY NEWS

WorkDay Information!



Training & Resources

Soon, all employees will have access to web-based training and job aids through the Learning Resource Network (LRN). Learning paths have been developed based on your role in the new system, making sure that you have access to the courses that will best prepare you for Workday.

What can you do now to prepare? Visit <http://worklion.psu.edu/training-resources> to watch a recording of the appropriate information session based on your employee type.

High-fat Ice Cream May Not Necessarily Mean Tastier Ice Cream

Ice cream with higher fat amounts are typically called "premium" ice creams.

However, Penn State researchers found that most people can't tell the difference between ice creams with certain levels of fat.

The findings may help ice cream producers and

entrepreneurs make recipes that are tasty, but less expensive. [More>>](#)



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 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.

UPCOMING SEMINARS & WORKSHOPS

Course Name	Date(s)	Campus/Format
2017 Summer Diversity Series (six-part series)	May-July 2017	University Park
YOU@PSU: Setting Goals & Expectations for Individuals	June-Sept 2017	Adobe Connect
YOU@PSU: Setting Goals & Expectations for Supervisors	June-Sept 2017	Adobe Connect
Budget Basics	9/19/2017	Adobe Connect
Purchasing Card Reconciler Training	9/26/2017	Adobe Connect
More Than Budget Basics	10/3/2017	Adobe Connect
Safety and Security for Office Personnel	10/13/2017	University Park
Project Management (four-part series)	Part I: 10/17/2017 Part II: 10/23/2017 Part III: 10/27/2017 Part IV: 11/6/2017	University Park
Purchasing Card Reconciler Training	11/8/2017	Adobe Connect
Budget Basics	11/9/2017	Adobe Connect
More Than Budget Basics	11/14/2017	Adobe Connect
StaySAFE: Surviving an Active Shooter	11/30/2017	University Park

STAFF STAR



Randi Bone

Administrative Support Assistant

Academics, Advising, and Global Programs

Randi embodies the Penn State spirit by being committed to excellence. She truly provides administrative support to the advisors. She makes sure that everyone has what they need to be effective in their jobs whether that is student information, office supplies or a lunch break. She anticipates what needs to be done to help the advising center run smoothly and does it with pride and an attitude that conveys that she enjoys her work and her colleagues.

Randi promotes cooperation and collegiality not just with her great enthusiasm and positive attitude but by taking actions to connect the staff of the Advising Center with each other and with the staff of other units in the college.

Randi provides exceptional service to students, families, and all visitors, greeting every person who walks in the door with a bright smile and everyone who calls on the phone with a cheery "hello." Randi goes out of her way in order to find the answer for whatever question a student would pose to her. She does her best to make sure every visitor leaves the office with

an answer and in better spirits.

Randi has had a significant and positive impact on students and her colleagues in the College of Engineering. Randi connects with people, she cares about people and that is so evident in how she approaches her work. We are fortunate to have Randi's professionalism, cheerful attitude and energy within the Engineering Advising Center and Penn State.

**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 October 1, 2017 for the next issue.



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STAY CONNECTED:

