Spotlight

The Spotlight is a feature communication compiled three times annually to share opportunities, benefits, and resources available to UNC Charlotte Staff members. If you have Spotlight news, please send your suggestions to Staff Council at staffcouncil@uncc.edu

MENTAL HEALTH FIRST AID TRAINING

Why mental health first aid training?

According to the Suicide Prevention Resource Center statistics, suicide is the leading cause of death among college and university students in the United States. To be successful as an institution in living our mission, all within the Charlotte community must be involved and take an active role to de-stigmatize mental health issues and promote a culture of wellbeing.

Counseling and Psychological Services will provide Mental Health First Aid training sessions to employees. This is a national program to teach the skills to respond to the signs of mental illness and suicidal ideation. For more details and to learn skills and strategies to support someone, go to go.charlotte.edu/suicideprevention.

QUICK TIP

Be sure to check out your Niner Insider emails - particularly the Faculty/Staff Announcements and News You Can Use sections. Go Niners!

PERSONAL OBSERVANCE LEAVE

Personal Observance Leave is available for eligible employees through the last working day of December each year, in accordance with Executive Order 262.

Permanent leave-earning employees may use this leave on a day of cultural, religious, or personal significance. The University offers eight hours of Personal Observance Leave for eligible employees.
The University launched its new Office of Civil Rights and Title IX on July 1, 2022.

The Office of Civil Rights and Title IX, within the Division of Institutional Integrity, is committed to supporting the University’s mission of maintaining an environment conducive to learning for all students and a professional workplace for all employees. The office takes active measures to create/restore a respectful, safe, and inclusive environment that is free from discrimination, discriminatory harassment, and sexual or interpersonal violence by:

- Raising awareness through proactive education and training;
- Utilizing data to monitor the campus climate and make targeted, educational and programming decisions;
- Connecting students and employees to resources and offering accommodations to facilitate them obtaining the support they need;
- Encouraging individuals to report incidents for response and/or investigation without fear of retaliation;
- Ensuring reports are addressed and resolved in a timely, fair, and impartial manner; and
- Fostering a University community that promotes personal integrity, civility, and mutual respect in an environment free from discrimination, discriminatory harassment, and interpersonal violence.

For more information, visit the Civil Rights and Title IX website.

The Center for Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) Education is pleased to present the STEM Pre-College Program at UNC Charlotte. The STEM Pre-College Program, formerly a part of the North Carolina Mathematics and Science Education Network (NC-MSEN), is currently accepting applications at https://tinryurl.com/charlotteprecollege for middle and high school students.

The goal of the program is to broaden the pool of traditionally-minoritized students pursuing STEM majors and careers.
STEM PRE-COLLEGE PROGRAM, CONT.

Program objectives are met through enrichment activities on and off the campus of the UNC Charlotte primarily through a:
  • Saturday Academy during the academic year;
  • Summer Scholars program annually in June/July;
  • research experience program;
  • and in-person/virtual interactions with STEM professionals.

The program claims an almost 40-year history; the 1998 United States Presidential Award for Mentoring, and alumni throughout the region, state, and country who specialize in STEM. We are the preeminent pre-college experience.

UNC Charlotte Faculty and Staff are asked to consider their child(ren)'s participation in the program. The deadline for registration is September 30.

Please visit https://tinyurl.com/charlotteprecollege for more information and registration. Please contact stem-precollege@uncc.edu or (704) 687-8726 if you have any questions.

UNIVERSITY HONORS PROGRAM

The Honors College at Charlotte supports 30 different honors programs on campus, including the University Honors Program (UHP). Directly administered by the Honors College, UHP is the oldest and largest multi-year honors program at UNC Charlotte, welcoming students from any major. As an interdisciplinary honors program, UHP encourages students to integrate learning from multiple academic disciplines with their lived experiences to create new knowledge that is more than just the sum of its parts. Our students put their learning into practice through Honors Core Experiences, opportunities to enhance their education by doing and reflecting.

If your student is a new member of UHP, they will have Denise Lynch, Assistant Director for Student Experience, to guide them through their first year.
**UNIVERSITY HONORS PROGRAM, CONT.**

Denise is the instructor of record for all First Year UHP Colloquium classes and is a nationally board certified and Licensed Clinical Mental Health Counselor. She has been cited by fellow employees as "simply amazing. She continues to strive for excellence, going above and beyond to aid in the success of the college and its students, faculty, and staff."

The Honors College encourages Charlotte staff to have their children, who attend UNC Charlotte, to apply to be in the University Honors Program. The application to enter in fall 2023 is currently open to new and current students (under 60 credit hours); more instruction and information is available on our website at honorscollege.charlotte.edu.

**JANET B. ROYSTER SCHOLARSHIP**

On August 15, 2022, the UNC System Staff Assembly began accepting applications for the Janet B. Royster (JBR) Memorial Staff Scholarship. The deadline to submit applications is Friday, September 30, 2022. The JBR Scholarship Fund was created in 2011 in memory of UNC-TV employee Janet B. Royster. Scholarships provide assistance towards earning a degree or other educational needs of staff. We will be awarding a maximum of $500 per qualified campus/affiliated institution for the 2022-2023 year.

**STATE EMPLOYEES COMBINED CAMPAIGN**

This fall, faculty and staff will have the opportunity to support the Arts & Science Council (ASC) and the State Employees Combined Campaign (SECC) from September 28 until October 12, 2022.

During this two-week campaign, faculty and staff members can contribute to one of 800+ community funds through a direct donation or payroll deduction. You can provide support for critical programs and enhance services for organizations making a difference in and around our community.

This campaign is open for two weeks, starting September 28th. Visit go.charlotte.edu/asc/secc for more information or to donate!
UPCOMING EVENTS

Come to the Niner Carnival!
A Staff Council Big Top Event "Come to the Niner Carnival". Enjoy contests that include Pumpkin Carving and Decorating, Photography, and Niner Crafts.

Mark your calendars for October 11th, 11:30AM-2PM
This year’s charity is the Jamil Niner Pantry.

Office Decorating Contest
Join a friendly competition to show your Niner Spirit! Decorate your office door/space with Niner colors and decor to represent your love and passion for UNC Charlotte!

The deadline for decorating your office is October 17th. Contest judging will happen that week and winners will be notified when judging is completed.

To register for this contest, visit the staff council website and click on the Upcoming Events tab!

Open Enrollment
Open enrollment for employee insurance is October 10-28, 2022. This is for policies that are effective January 1, 2023. Remember that if you have the 80/20 plan and don't participate in enrollment, you will be changed to the 70/30 plan for the 2023 year. For more information, visit the Benefits Office website.

STAY CURRENT WITH STAFF COUNCIL

For information about upcoming staff council meetings, copies of meeting agendas or minutes, and other great information about what staff council can do for you check out our website at stafforg.charlotte.edu!

GOLDEN NUGGET AWARDS

The "Golden Nugget" award is given to staff members who deserve a little extra gold in their sluice pan for going above and beyond the call of duty.

In July and August, there were over 70 awarded Golden Nuggets. Congratulations and thank you for representing the University so well!

If you know of someone who goes above and beyond, nominate them for a Golden Nugget by visiting our website and completing the nomination form.