



25th Annual Staff Appreciation Picnic

This year the Staff Appreciation Picnic joined the rest of UCI in celebrating the campus' 50th anniversary. The event was held on Thursday, August 27th and hosted hundreds of staff in Aldrich Park. Activities included a competition for best show of UCI pride, "Best" oldest UCI t-shirt contest, a water balloon toss and a 3-legged race. Complimentary BBQ food was provided for all Staff as well as and keepsake mason jars. All staff were encouraged to bring their own reusable plates, utensils, and beverage containers in an effort to be [green](#) and have the picnic be a zero waste event.

Scholarship Program for Staff

Staff Assembly is pleased to announce that the Career Enhancement Scholarship Program will now be known as the Mike Puritz Staff Assembly Career Enhancement Scholarship Program. Mike Puritz was the Associate Director of Campus Recreation and retired in June after 35 years of service to UCI and 19 years of service to Staff Assembly. During his time with Staff Assembly he served as the Staff Appreciation Chair and was instrumental in creating some of the campus' most cherished staff events, including the staff picnic and pancake breakfast. In recognition of his dedicated service and work towards improving campus life, Staff Assembly chose to rename the existing career enhancement scholarship program in his honor. The Mike Puritz Staff Assembly Career Enhancement Scholarship Program provides funds to help UC Irvine staff attain higher education degrees and advance their careers.

Summer Gift Drive

Staff Assembly's Community Relations Committee collected recycled, unused or gently used items for [The Center for Autism & Neurodevelopmental Disorders](#). Items collected included toys, books, puzzles, and games. The Center's mission is to improve the lives of individuals and families challenged by Autism and other Neurodevelopmental Disorders.

Empowering You

The Education and Enrichment Committee launched "*Empowering You*," a new lunch hour series that educates and inspires staff to put their best foot forward. For this series, the Education and Enrichment Committee teamed up with [Working Wardrobes](#), a local nonprofit that helps men, women, veterans and young adults overcome difficult challenges to confidently enter the workforce and achieve success. In partnership with Staff Assembly, the career development experts from Working Wardrobes will share their "Power of Your Image" program. The first session focused on helping staff enhance their credibility by motivating them to consciously project a positive and professional image through visual and verbal communication. The session also focused on the power of first impressions and gave examples of a winning handshake and appropriate eye contact. Staff also had the opportunity to discuss different clothing styles, how to make the most out of the clothing they have, and helpful grooming tips for men and women.

Campus updates contact: CUCSA 1st year Delegate, Adriana Collins (ajcollin@uci.edu)