



October 2012

UCB Series on Retirement Planning Open to Lab Staff

LBNL participated in UC Berkeley series on Retirement Planning. Launched Friday, October 5th, this six week program was developed to guide faculty and staff through everything from retirement benefits to work-life transitions. The comprehensive Pre-Retirement Planning (PRP) program, , was designed to help active UC Berkeley and Berkeley Lab employees plan and implement a successful retirement strategy.

Changes to Reduction in Force Policy for Staff

In October, Berkeley Lab announced a revision to the Reduction in Force policy of the Requirements and Policies Manual (RPM) for non-represented employees. Before an employee is laid off, Berkeley Lab will continue to provide preferential opportunities for reassignment or transfer for an eligible non-probationary non-represented Career employee to a position for which the employee is qualified. If an involuntary layoff does occur, Berkeley Lab will provide severance pay to laid off Career employees.

Open House

Nearly 6,000 members of the community came to the Lab on Saturday October 13, 2012, gaining science knowledge and learning more about LBNL at the annual Open House event. Nearly every division hosted exhibits, many of which were interactive for guests. A major goal of this year's event was to make it a first ever zero-waste event. Event organizers and exhibitors worked hard to avoid using items that must be thrown away in favor of items that could be reused, composted or recycled. Of the 3,713 lbs of waste generated by 6000+ open house guests and volunteers, all but 64 pounds was sent for composting or recycling.

Drop, Cover Hold Drill October 18, 2012

Berkeley Lab employees and more than 7.6 million California residents participated in the annual "Great California ShakeOut" earthquake drill. Emergency Services staff conducted the annual Drop, Cover, Hold and Evacuation exercise. All buildings on the LBNL campus as well as six offsite buildings participated as Emergency Services staff provided instructions for the drill through the public address system. Building Emergency teams facilitated evacuations of their buildings to designated assembly areas and provided communication to the LBNL Emergency Operations Center. The entire exercise took less than 30 minutes from start to finish.

35th Annual Run Around

The Lab held its 35th Annual Run Around on October, 19, 2012 at noon. This morale building event for members of the Lab community was open to cyclists, runners and walkers who wanted to participate. The roads at the lab were shut down to all vehicle traffic from 11:00 am – 1:30 pm and one of the parking lots was cleared where race winners received awards immediately following the event. All participants received a souvenir t-shirt and this years winning t-shirt design was a playful nod to recent mountain lion sightings at the Lab.



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Director's Awards

Nominations were being accepted for the 2nd annual Director's Awards for Exceptional Achievement and The Berkeley Lab Prize-Lifetime Achievement Awards during the month of November. These awards were established to recognize teams and individuals for significant accomplishments advancing the Lab's mission and strategic goals. For FY13, up to 15 individual (up to \$5,000) or team (up to \$5,000) awards will be given in any of the following nine areas of achievement: Scientific, Early Scientific Career, Safety, Operations, Service, Technology Transfer, Outreach, Diversity and Societal Impact. Up to two awards (15,000 each) will be presented to individuals to honor career-spanning exceptional achievements and contributions in one or more of the following three areas: Scientific, Operations and Societal Impact. Honorees will be announced in early 2013, and acknowledged at a Lab awards ceremony and reception.

Open Enrollment

The Lab participated in UC's annual open Enrollment period. This year, Open Enrollment ran from 8:00 am, October 29 to 5:00 pm, November 20, 2012. Employees were encouraged to review their benefits and plan changes, and overviews of plan changes as well as several information sessions were held during open enrollment to help inform employees and encourage action.

Shares Annual Giving Campaign

For the 15th year, Berkeley Lab sponsored its charitable giving campaign called SHARES (Science for Health, Assistance, Resources, Education, and Services). Employees were able to contribute to a charity of their choice via check, or payroll deduction anytime during the month of November.

Career Planning Workshop for Science and Support Staff

Among the new training classes available through the Berkeley Lab Learning Institute, career planning workshops were held on November 6, 2012. Taught by a career-counseling specialist, these sessions were geared to help employees develop a career action plan and provide tools and resources to support their efforts. Two workshops were offered: a postdoc and research assistant version focusing on issues in scientific careers, and a non-scientific employee version that explored general career planning issues.

December 2012

Annual Lab Shutdown for the Holidays

The Lab will be closed from Monday December 24, 2012 – Tuesday January 1, 2013. With the exception of two days, all of the days during this time period are paid holidays. Employees have the option to use vacation days during the two unpaid days. Staff employees are allowed to be paid for work during the holiday shutdown if permission has been granted by their Supervisor, their Division Director and Human Resources.

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