



Campus Update March 2014

Networking and Philanthropic Series (NPS)

Chancellor Leland kicked off the first event in our new Networking and Philanthropic Series. The first “Celebrating Staff” event served to reintroduce the event series to all staff. The celebrating staff event is one of five (5) annual events that comprise the Networking and Philanthropic Series. The event was a success and our next event “Where’s Rufus?” will take place in March.

Holiday Toy Drive

In conjunction with the Chancellor’s Office, Staff Assembly hosted a December Toy Drive from small new toys given to a local non-profit, All Dad’s Matter. The event was well received by staff and the community at large.

Career Advancement Mentorship Program (CAMP)

UC Merced HR, in consultation with Staff Assembly, has begun the planning and implementation process for a campus wide mentorship and coaching program for all staff. The 12 month course will pair interested staff mentors and mentees for monthly programmatic events mixed with one on one mentoring through the year to encourage professional and personal development on campus. The program is in its initial planning stages with a prospective launch of an application process in late May and a program kickoff in late June.

Proposed changes to the Staff Excellence Awards program

Acting on suggestions from last year’s Staff Assembly survey, UCM SA has designed a new set of criteria for the staff assembly awards in order to clarify why the award was given, assist judges in their review process for the award, and help prompt submissions from areas that have not traditionally been reached by the old list of criteria. The new criteria moves from one list of several traits and accomplishments to a list of five (5) separate categories of awards with one recipient in each. These categories were created from a mixture of UC Merced’s previous criteria list, UC Riverside’s Staff Awards list, and UC Santa Barbara’s list. At the time of writing, the proposed new criteria has yet to be distributed to staff for their approval or rejection, but will be sent out shortly.

Vice Chancellor for Business and Administrative Services

UC Merced is happy to welcome Michael Reese to campus as our new Vice Chancellor for Business and Administrative Services. VC Reese has served as the interim VC for several months, and has accepted the position as our permanent Vice Chancellor. Since his arrival at UC Merced, VC Reese has implemented a reorganization of our Business and Financial Services unit and a reorganization of the Human Resources unit is currently underway. VC Reese has also launched an initiative to develop a compensation philosophy that will help guide development of our competitive pay strategy and support our workforce needs for UC Merced’s [2020 Project](#). Dennis Larsen, executive director of compensation programs and strategies at the UCOP, will lead this initiative beginning with a series of “listening sessions” over the next few weeks with non-represented employees and managers. Staff Assembly has worked with Vice Chancellor Reese on several areas of concern to staff and we welcome our continued partnership with a strong supporter of staff. A Staff Assembly representative served on the search committee for this position, and Staff Assembly interviewed the final slate of candidates during their campus visits.

Chief Information Officer Ann Kovalchick

UC Merced welcomes Assistant Vice Chancellor for Information Technology and Chief Information Office Ann Kovalchick. AVC Kovalchick joins us from Drake University in Iowa, with a start date on February 3, 2014. A Staff Assembly representative served on the search committee for this position, and Staff Assembly interviewed the final slate of candidates during their campus visits.

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