

IOWA STATE UNIVERSITY™

Professional and Scientific Council

August Council Meeting



**Professional and Scientific Council general meeting:
Thursday, August 6, 2:10 - 4:00 p.m.**

The meeting will be held online via [Webex](#) (follow prompts)
Meeting number: 120 827 0588
Password: gRpbmFcZ582
Join by phone: +1-312-535-8110 United States Toll (Chicago)
Access code: 120 827 0588

The meeting is open to all Professional and Scientific employees.

Volunteers needed to help with student move-in COVID-19 testing

You can have a direct impact on the health of Iowa State in the fall semester. Volunteers are being urgently sought to help with move-in COVID-19 testing of students who are returning to campus residence halls.

Testing is ongoing through August 16 at the Lied Recreation Center.

Various roles are available, including helping ISU Card staff distribute new cards (from behind acrylic barriers); helping manage outdoor or indoor waiting lines (showing hospitality); helping Health Services staff check in each student (from behind acrylic barriers); and helping students complete screening questionnaires and touch-free temperature checks at the front door. Only health professionals will be directly involved with testing. Personal protective equipment and training will be provided.



Anyone interested should carefully assess and monitor their own health and safety before agreeing to a shift. Those who wish to help must get approval from their supervisor and complete an [online sign-up form](#).

For those who sign up, lunch will be provided and parking is available in Lot 57 west of Lied.

Did you know? It's not too late to apply for a COVID-19 High Risk Alternative Work Arrangement

Professional and Scientific employees who would like to request a High Risk Alternative Work Arrangement (AWA) due to COVID-19 concerns can still submit one, but should do so as soon as possible if they have been scheduled to return to their on-campus work location.

Professional and Scientific employees (along with merit employees as well as graduate assistants, postdoctoral scholars and student workers) who meet one or more of the [high risk factors for severe illness](#) (as outlined by the Centers for Disease Control) or live with someone that meets one or more of the risk factors, may



submit a request for an AWA.

If the applicant qualifies, he or she will be granted a flexible work arrangement that will be in effect through December 31, 2020, or until such time as it is deemed no longer reasonable or necessary, whichever comes first.

Find details on COVID-19 High Risk Alternative Work Arrangements and an AWA application link on the University Human Resources [COVID-19 web page](#).

Faced with decisions about campus parking this school year? Check these options

Amid changes in work plans for fall semester, including work from home arrangements, some Professional and Scientific employees may be re-thinking their parking needs for the main ISU campus.

As discussed in a recent Inside Iowa State story, the university's Parking Division has re-established its refund policy for parking permits as of July 1 (the policy had been suspended in March when the COVID-19 pandemic began). This means for individuals who purchased a 2020-21 parking permit and now do not want or need it, the permit may be returned for a pro-rated refund.



If the permit was paid for with a payroll deduction, the deduction will be stopped. If the permit is for a reserved space, it will not be held, and will go to the next person on the waiting list. You would then need to re-apply for a permit in the future.

If you will only need to park on campus on an occasional basis, Parking Division staff point to the new **scratch-off hang tags** as a good option. The tags cost \$2 each and are good for one use each - but they are valid for a three-year time span and an individual can purchase as many as they feel they need. The tags are for use in general staff parking areas.



"Keep them in your glove compartment, and then when you park, you scratch off the year, month and date, and hang it from your rear-view mirror," says Parking Division Director Mark Miller. If, at the end of the three-year period, you have unused tags, you can apply them toward a purchase of new tags. The tags must be purchased at the Parking Division office, 27 Armory.

Miller also points out that staff can park at the Iowa State Center and ride the Orange Route Cy-Ride bus to campus at no charge, and metered parking on campus is also an option.

Information, including parking maps, is available on the [Parking Division web site](#) or by calling 515-294-3388.

In case you missed it: Important updates to tuition reimbursement, travel reimbursement policies

Modifications in two programs that involve reimbursements for Iowa State University employees are in the news.

In response to feedback from employees, university senior leaders have modified the recently announced changes in the **tuition reimbursement program** for Professional and Scientific and merit employees.

This temporary modification will allow employees who have taken courses in the last year at universities and colleges other than Iowa State to be reimbursed for courses for two additional semesters, fall 2020 and spring 2021. Restrictions apply.



University leadership had announced in June that no reimbursements would be made for courses outside the Iowa State system beginning with the fall 2020 semester, as a cost-saving measure. Get more information in a story published in the [July 30 issue](#) of Inside Iowa State.

A change in policy regarding **travel reimbursement** that had been lobbied for by Iowa State employees and Professional and Scientific Council for many years has become official. It now allows faculty and staff traveling on university business to be reimbursed for meals and incidental purchases at a set rate without submitting receipts. The change became official August 1. Read more in the [July 30 issue](#) of Inside Iowa State.

Many stresses, but many resources to help Iowa State employees

Professional and Scientific Council recognizes the many challenges and concerns that face Iowa State University employees in this time of great uncertainty - and wants to remind employees that programs are in place to help you deal with them.



Two new resources have been released by University Human Resources/ISU Wellbeing and Student Health.

Kognito Mental Health Training is a partnership program with a health simulation company, and is now available on Learn@ISU. The interactive training offers practice conversations through role-playing through a program called "at-risk for faculty and staff." To launch the training, go to [Learn@ISU](#) and type "at-risk" in the search box.

Another recent offering called **TAO** (Therapy Assistance Online) is an evidence-based library of interactive programs that address mental health challenges and life stressors. Videos and interactive exercises can be completed at your own pace. Student Counseling Services has offered private access to the full TAO library for all ISU students, staff and faculty for free. Go to the [sign up page](#) to access

information.

The [Employee and Family Resources program](#) offers webinars on subjects such as mental health awareness, navigating change in times of uncertainty, a peaceful mind in times of uncertainty, dealing with COVID-19 stresses and more.

If online programs don't meet your needs and you would like to talk to someone about concerns you have, remember that the **Employee Assistance Program** (EAP) offers free, confidential counseling services to ISU staff and their immediate family members. Access the [EAP Benefit Summary](#) or call 800-327-4692 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

Highlighting ISU Staff: Rhonda Evans, Human Development and Family Studies

This month we recognize Rhonda Evans , Program Assistant for Human Development and Family Studies

Rhonda was nominated by Jo Ann Lee, Program Coordinator for Human Development and Family Studies, who said, "Since Rhonda has joined the 'Parenting: It's a Life' (PIAL) team, the number of school visits more than doubled from the previous year and, as a result, PIAL reached 1,844 youth across Iowa. She wears many hats on our team. From organizing the tasks of the growing number of ISU student employees to providing quality customer service and responding to the continual stream of incoming school visit requests, she strives to create a strong sense of connection

among the PIAL team."

Congratulations, Rhonda, and thank you for all you do!

You can nominate a fellow Professional and Scientific employee (or team of employees) for Highlighting ISU Staff! Submit your nominations using this [link](#) to tell us about a P&S employee or team doing great work in your area. The form will ask you to tell us about who you are highlighting and why in 100 words or less, and to include a picture of the person, team, or output for which they are being highlighted. One submission will be regularly included in the newsletter as determined by the P&S Council Awards Committee. Other submissions will be featured on social media with the tag #highlighting ISUstaff, on the P&S Council web page Highlighting ISU Staff, and/or included in future newsletters.



Rhonda (second row, right) is shown with co-workers



Members of Professional and Scientific Council's Executive Council met July 27 to discuss council's strategic initiatives for 2020-21. Initiatives will be announced after being adopted by the full council.

Sara Parris is the 2020-21 Professional and Scientific Council President.

[Email](#) President Sara Parris

Your Professional and Scientific Council representatives are here for you. Their names and contact information can be found [here](#).



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A FACE COVERING



DISTANCE
6 FEET (2M) APART



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