

IOWA STATE UNIVERSITY™

Professional and Scientific Council

August Council Meeting

Thursday, August 12
2:10 p.m.
Gallery Room, Memorial Union



Professional and Scientific Council general council meetings will return to an in-person format with this meeting

The meeting is open to all Iowa State University Professional and Scientific employees.

Recreation Services changes target ISU staff with information, fee revisions



In an effort to better serve students by improving the well-being of faculty and staff, ISU's recreation services are making changes in how they reach out to those individuals – including a restructuring of fees, a longtime goal of Professional and Scientific Council.

The annual Recreation Services membership fees for their Employees category have been changed.

The annual fee is now \$350, less than \$30 per month if paid in full and up front. See the full list of Recreation Services [membership fees](#).

Further changes are also in the works, including a collaborative plan between Recreation Services and ISU WellBeing to hire a new staff person specifically to target faculty and staff in promoting programs and services. Recreation Service officials say they are prioritizing a focus on the well-being of ISU students – and as part of that, see the importance of helping faculty and staff be their best, since they are part of the overall student experience.

Find more information in a story published in the [July 29 issue](#) of Inside Iowa State.

Get vaccinated! Series of Iowa State COVID-19 vaccination clinics to be offered

With the rampant spread of the delta variant of COVID-19, vaccination against the virus has become more urgent than ever.

Iowa State University will hold a series of COVID-19 vaccination clinics in the coming weeks for all students, faculty and staff. The clinics will be held on various dates and at various locations on the main ISU campus between August 17 and September 29.



Each clinic will be held from noon-3 p.m. The full list of dates and locations can be found on the university's COVID-19 Vaccinations [web page](#).

Both the Pfizer and Johnson & Johnson (Janssen) vaccines will be available. Vaccination appointments may be [scheduled online](#), and walk-ins are also welcome. ISU employees and students are urged to bring their university identification cards to their appointments.

Get vaccinated! It's the best way to stop the spread of the virus and to show that Cyclones Care!

Did you know? Accessibility course for ISU staff will be offered in September

Digital accessibility is a major initiative that will be implemented at Iowa State University in the coming years, and will usher in many changes in how the university communicates electronically.

You can educate yourself in the basics of this process and get a head start on the coming changes in special courses for staff offered by ISU Digital Access. The next course will be held September 1-24, Wednesdays, noon-1 p.m.



This online course is an introduction to the basic concepts of digital accessibility. You will learn about inclusive design related to your work at ISU. At the end of this course, you will be familiar with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), Section 508 of the Rehabilitation Act, and the Web Content Accessibility Guidelines (WCAG) version 2.1 Level AA. Learners will also be introduced to the layout of the entire course, expectations, and time commitment.

The course will be a mix of short videos, activities, readings, weekly live discussions, weekly online discussions, and consultations. Get [more information](#).

To be added to the course, email digitalaccess@iastate.edu

You are also reminded that the comment period for the proposed Digital Accessibility policy remains open and has been extended to October 29. The proposed policy has been posted in the [ISU Policy Library](#).

Seminar Series returns to in-person events! Join us September 7 for "Taking Care: Including Mindfulness in Your Day"



We are all facing new challenges in life and working to overcome them. Join Karen Couves (Center for Excellence in Learning and Teaching, CELT) and Sue Tew Warming (ISU WellBeing) September 7, 2 - 3 p.m., in the Pioneer Room of the Memorial Union to explore the benefits of mindfulness.

This interactive session will include practical ways to include mindfulness in your daily life and participants can expect to leave with resources to assist when challenges are presented.

Professional and Scientific Council's Seminar Series events will return to an in-person format with this meeting and you are invited to be part of them! If you're not able to join in person the meeting will be livestreamed on [Adobe Connect](#).

Watch this newsletter for announcements about the topics of future Seminar Series events, scheduled in the Memorial Union Pioneer Room from 2 - 3 p.m. on: October 12, November 9, December 14, January 11, February 8, March 8, April 13, May 10 and June 13. All meetings will be also be livestreamed on Adobe Connect and will be archived on [Learn@ISU](#) approximately one week after they are held.

Archived Seminar Series events online offer a recap of handling workplace challenges

Returning to work or having colleagues rejoin you in the work environment after more than a year of separation has perhaps left you feeling a little unfamiliar with how to communicate and engage.

You're encouraged to take advantage of archived council Seminar Series events that focus on valuable strategies for constructively dealing with challenges at work, including conflict. View or review any one of the following presentations on demand in [Learn@ISU](#):



Strategies for Addressing Interdepartmental Challenges

Chuck Doran, ISU Ombuds Team Member

Course ID: PSCOUN-SSE-2021-01-ON

Communicating with Your Supervisor: Developing a Healthy Work Environment

Deanna Clingan-Fischer, ISU Ombuds Officer

Course ID: PSCOUN-SSE-2019-06-ON

Turning Conflict Inside Out

Elaine Newell, ISU Ombuds Officer

Course ID: PSCOUN-SSE-2015-10-ON

Top 10 Ways to Handle Conflict

Elaine Newell, ISU Ombuds Officer

Course ID: PSCOUN-SSE-2014-10-ON

Advance Child Tax Credit offers important changes for families; ISU Extension and Outreach can help



Changes in the Internal Revenue Service Child Tax Credit program for 2021 can be of immediate benefit to Iowa families with children age 17 and under.

Iowa State University employees have easy access to [information](#) about this program through the university's Extension and Outreach Money Tip\$ blog (scroll down on the page to "The Child Tax Credit Update Portal").

The expanded Child Tax Credit for 2021 is a new federal response to the COVID-19 pandemic for families with incomes below \$150,000 (married-joint), \$112,500 (head of household) or \$75,000 (single). One aspect of the expansion is advance payment, which kicked off in July, 2021. It is beneficial in that it can put some of the money in your pocket on a monthly basis instead of in one annual payment.

The second aspect of the expansion for qualifying families is an increase in the amount of the annual credit, up to \$3,000 for most children (the amount was \$2,000 before), and to \$3,600 for children under age six (born after Dec. 31, 2015). Families over the income guidelines will receive the Child Tax Credit under the previously existing rules.

Questions? Contact Barb Wollan, Iowa State University Human Sciences Extension and Outreach, at bwollan@iastate.edu or 515-832-9597.

Congratulations to our new and re-elected councilors!

Professional and Scientific Council's new council year began July 1, 2021, and our new and re-elected councilors were officially sworn in at our July 1 general council meeting. They include:

New Councilors

- Nellie Corning (appointed)
- Steve Couchman (elected)
- Lainey Crawford (elected)
- Paul Easker (elected)
- Jahmai Fisher (elected)
- Erin Gibson (elected)

Re-Elected Councilors

- Suzanne Ankertsjerne
- Mickie Deaton
- Matthew Femrite
- Katie Getting

For more information and to find your area's

- Austin Haytko (elected)
- Marlene Jacks (elected)
- Jeff Jackson (appointed)
- Judy Knoblock (elected)
- Autumn Marks (elected)
- Rano Marupova (elected)
- Gayle Mastbergen (appointed)
- Christine Reinders (appointed)
- Nicholas Streauslin (elected)
- David Welshhons (elected)
- Yue (Iris) Yin (appointed)

representatives, see the full list of councilors on the Professional and Scientific Council [web site](#).



Highlighting ISU Staff: Scott Willsey



This month we recognize **Scott Willsey**, Business Administrator II with Child Welfare Research and Training Project (CWRTP).

Scott was nominated by Rachel Vos Carrillo, who said: "As business administrator for CWRTP, Scott oversees varied and complicated funding streams while maintaining the accuracy and integrity of processes. He recently stepped in to take on additional duties and quickly worked to streamline tasks and build strong relationships. Scott is proactive in looking for solutions and provides apt guidance on contracting, budget and billing. He keeps us on track and his work is highly valued!"

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

You can nominate a fellow Professional and Scientific employee (or team of employees) for Highlighting ISU Staff! It only takes a few minutes. Submit your nominations using the [Highlighting ISU Staff form](#) 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 #highlightingISUstaff, on the P&S Council web page Highlighting ISU Staff, and/or included in future newsletters.



Chris Johnsen is the 2021-22 Professional and Scientific Council President.

[Email](#) President Chris Johnsen

Your Professional and Scientific Council representatives are here for you. Their names and contact information can be found on the [Council Members page](#) of our web site.

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