

IOWA STATE UNIVERSITY™

Professional and Scientific Council

January Council Meeting



Professional and Scientific Council general meeting: Thursday, January 7

Online meeting room opens at 2:00 p.m., meeting begins at 2:10 p.m.

Meeting held via [Webex](#) (follow prompts)


Meeting number: 120 588 1888

Password: iiCJ5VwiE67

Join by phone: +1-312-535-8110 United States Toll (Chicago)
Access code: 120 833 5827

The meeting is open to all Professional and Scientific employees.

Save the Date for the 2021 Professional Development Experience!

SAVE THE DATE! → February 25, 2021	
 <p>Cultivate Your Adventure <i>Growing Through Change</i> 2021 Professional Development Experience More Details Coming Soon!</p>	<p>IOWA STATE UNIVERSITY Professional and Scientific Council</p> <p>PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT EXPERIENCE</p>

The Professional and Scientific Council Professional Development Conference Subcommittee is hard at work planning a virtual experience to cater to the ever-changing needs of ISU P&S employees. Details regarding registration, speaker, and agenda will be released in the coming weeks. Please watch our Professional and Scientific Council Facebook page and our [web site](#) for more information.

We can't wait to "see" you for our first ever virtual professional development experience!

January Council Seminar Series event - Get to Know the ISU Ombuds Office



[Join us online](#) January 12, 2-3 p.m., when Dina Eisenberg and Chuck Doran, mediators with MWI, will discuss the free confidential services offered by the Iowa State University Ombuds Office.

MWI is a nationally recognized dispute resolution firm partnering with the university to offer interim ombuds services. At this session, you will find out how the office can assist you in resolving university-related matters.

To protect the health of attendees and presenters, this spring's Seminar Series events will be hosted online. Please join us from the comfort of your office or home. If you are unable to join us January 12, the recorded session will be posted on [Learn@ISU](#) approximately one week after the live session.

Find additional information about the Seminar Series on the Professional and Scientific Council [web site](#).

February Council Seminar Series Event - COVID-19: Where Are We in the Pandemic?



As we approach the one-year mark of the COVID-19 pandemic, find out the latest on the virus and vaccination efforts on campus in this presentation.

[Join us online](#) February 9, 2021, 2-3 p.m., when Kristen Obbink, Iowa State University COVID-19 Public Health Coordinator, provides information and resources related to the virus and debunks some of the myths surrounding the pandemic.

To protect the health of attendees and presenters, this spring's Seminar Series events will be hosted online. Please join us from the comfort of your office or home. If you are unable to join us February 9, the recorded session will be posted on [Learn@ISU](#) approximately one week after the live session.

Find additional information about the Seminar Series on the Professional and Scientific Council [web site](#).

In case you missed it: ISU human resources extends time off options for COVID-related concerns



The federal Families First Coronavirus Relief Act (FFCRA), which provided workers in the U.S. with additional time off and leave options in response to COVID-19, expired December 31, 2020.

However, as the need for these provisions still exists, Iowa State University is making available new COVID-19 sick time off options for employees, effective January 1, 2021.

The new Iowa State coverage was detailed in an email distributed by Kristi Darr, Vice President for University Human Resources, December 18, 2020. It includes COVID-19 sick time off of up to 80 hours of paid time off (prorated for part-time employees). This is a new bank of paid time off to be used for COVID-19 related reasons such as illness, isolation, and quarantine for yourself or for a family member.

Sick time off for school and child care of up to 80 hours of paid time off (prorated for part-time employees) is also included, however this is not a separate bank of time off. This option allows employees to use already-accrued sick time off for the

reason of school and child care disruptions or closures due to COVID-19.

Please note these options may be subject to change should new information be provided by federal or state government or the Board of Regents. ISU will continue to monitor closely and communicate accordingly.

Employees are urged to review the memo emailed by Darr for details. It is also available on the [University Human Resources web site](#).



Many rose to the challenge of fall semester with teamwork and Cyclone spirit; efforts serve as a road map for the future

In a year of full of uncertainty, the Iowa State community came together and adapted in the face of an unprecedented global pandemic, a daunting storm and other challenges in the planning and execution of a fall semester like no other.



In response to COVID-19, Cyclones volunteered daily to help with new and returning student check-in for coronavirus testing and also supported case managers for contact tracing to help assist with limiting the spread of the virus on campus. There were more than 25,000 tests for COVID-19 conducted through the efforts of the Thielen Student Health Center and The Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory along with the help of volunteers in the Cyclone

community. All were key in supporting health and wellness priorities at Iowa State and in the community and have not gone unnoticed.

Iowa State also adapted to the virtual world for faculty, staff, and students when the pandemic did not allow for "business as usual." Faculty successfully transitioned to online and hybrid teaching, putting in a strong and dedicated effort. As a result, 36 faculty members received [2020 Teaching Innovation Awards](#) and 647 students, faculty, and staff received nominations for the COVID-19 Exceptional Effort Awards Program for their response to the pandemic. Iowa State leadership was also able to assist in many other ways to ensure student success, including new student orientation being virtual at the start of the semester, the registrar's office making changes for course modalities, and the financial aid office providing financial support to students in need during the pandemic.

Planning for an all-new Winter Session of courses in an extended winter break was also undertaken in the fall semester and resulted in a huge number of students signing up for the opportunity to continue their learning through numerous class options.

Facilities Planning and Management (FP&M) made tremendous strides in repairs and providing support following a derecho that caused considerable wind damage in the Ames area in August. In addition, FP&M and the Department of Residence also met the monumental task of ensuring an all-new level of a sanitized campus environment before and during the fall 2020 semester.



Photo by Christopher Gannon, Iowa State University News Service

The collective effort of the ISU community in "uncharted territory" that has been displayed this past semester serves as an example of teamwork and coordination that will help the university continue to move forward into the 2021 spring semester. Professional and Scientific Council says "well done!" to all involved.

Highlighting ISU Staff: Megan Peterson

This month we recognize Megan Peterson, administrative assistant with the Office of the Senior Vice President and Provost.

She has been noted for her outstanding work within the Senior Vice President and Provost office, specifically with the Faculty Success Team, where she has had many positive impacts on her colleagues. As Katharine Hensley, faculty success coordinator for the office said, "Megan handles the stress and demands of her role with ease, and is the calming influence in our department. She makes life easier for the rest of us on the team. We appreciate her so much!"



Congratulations, Megan, 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.

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 on the [Council Members page](#) of our web site.



CYCLONES CARE



**WEAR
A FACE COVERING**



**DISTANCE
6 FEET (2M) APART**



**WASH
YOUR HANDS OFTEN**



**STAY HOME
IF YOU ARE ILL**

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