January Council Meeting

Thursday, January 5, 2023
2:10 p.m.
Room 3580, Memorial Union
Please join us! All Iowa State University Professional and Scientific employees are welcome!

Registration for Cultivate 2023 is now open!

Registration for Cultivate 2023 is now open! The Professional and Scientific Council looks forward to seeing you February 22, 2023 at the Gateway Hotel and Conference Center.

This year’s professional development conference will feature dynamic keynote speaker Erik Dominguez, sessions presented by Iowa State colleagues, and opportunities to connect and build relationships with staff across campus. Be sure to visit the conference web site and read the session descriptions and learning objectives before registering. You will be required to select the sessions you will attend on your registration form.

The early registration rate is $120 and will be in effect January 3 – January 31. The regular registration rate is $140 and will be in effect February 1 – February 14. Be sure to register early to receive the discounted rate!

Register and get additional information on the conference web site.

We look forward to seeing you at the Gateway Hotel and Conference Center February 22!

Want to make a difference in the new year and beyond? Now's the time to look at joining Professional and Scientific Council!

As a Professional and Scientific employee, ask yourself these questions:
· Do I have ideas on how to improve the Iowa State Professional and Scientific employee experience?
· Would I like to be part of the process that helps bring about those improvements?
· In addition to myself, would I like to help other P&S employees be the best they can be?
· Do I have a desire to meet employees from other parts of the university and expand my contacts?
Would I like to gain leadership experience that can help me in my job?

If you answered “yes” to any (or all) of the above, then 2023 would be a great time to consider serving on Professional and Scientific Council. P&S employees who serve on council are a key ingredient in the Iowa State shared governance policy – where employees work together with university leadership to effect change and improvements.

Council’s annual elections are coming up. If you’d like to learn more about serving on the Professional and Scientific Council you’re encouraged to prepare now for when the councilor nomination window opens in February, 2023.

Start by learning more about Professional and Scientific Council on our web site. You can learn about the different ways you can get involved (opportunities exist outside of our annual elections), including giving council a "test run." Then have a conversation with your supervisor about this opportunity.

Questions can be directed to the Professional and Scientific Council’s Representation Committee via email at pands-r@iastate.edu.

We hope 2023 will be the year you decide to make a difference in your own Iowa State experience and that of many others by joining Professional and Scientific Council!

Did You Know? Learn tips here for navigating those winter weather challenges when you're an ISU employee

As we head into the teeth of winter, you know that snow, ice, and wind will impact your trips to and from your workplace, your parking and walking, especially if you work on Iowa State’s main campus. Here are some winter weather tips to help keep you safe.

ISU Facilities Planning and Management (FP&M) is in charge of snow and ice removal and they work hard to keep all roads, parking lots, sidewalks and entrances as clear as possible. However, if you notice an area of concern, use the Problem Report Form to notify them. For urgent requests you can call 515-294-5100, all hours, all days.

During inclement weather in Ames, you are encouraged to use the CyRide bus service, which has routes city-wide, including free shuttles to and from the Iowa State Center parking lots. You can park your vehicle there and bus the rest of the way onto campus.

There are also designated Iowa State Center parking lots where all valid ISU parking permits will be honored (including lots A3, A4, B5, B6, 29, 30, and 41) where employees can park if their usual parking lot isn’t clear.

If you rely on a personal vehicle to travel to and from campus, make sure to maintain it well before and during the winter months. Consider installing snow tires. But before buying new tires, visit NHTSA’s Tires page to review tire safety ratings. The Uniform Tire Quality Grading System (UTQGS) lets you compare tire treadwear, traction performance, and temperature resistance.

Once you’ve parked or arrived on campus be careful as you navigate on foot. ISU Employee Health & Safety (EH&S) recommends that you give yourself sufficient time and plan your route in advance. Wear shoes or boots that provide traction on snow and ice, and use special care when entering and exiting vehicles, climbing or descending stairs, and entering or leaving buildings. See more detailed advice for navigating campus on foot.

Winter storms can create a need for further planning for getting around campus and parking See more information about what to expect at these times.

You can view still more general information relating to winter safety from EH&S. Professional and Scientific Council urges you to stay safe this winter!

"Why I joined Professional & Scientific Council" (and why you should too)

Our councilors share their stories of when they joined Professional and Scientific Council. This month we feature Karrie Daniels of council’s
After receiving an email promoting Professional and Scientific Council and the need to fill vacancies on the council, I had requested the opportunity to join. Initially, I thought this would be an excellent opportunity to extend myself professionally by having the chance to meet new people within the university and to provide networking opportunities. I also wanted to provide a voice for other employees like me. I was excited about this new prospect.

I officially joined council in November of 2021 when the council, and the world, was beginning its transition back to a “normal” atmosphere following a subsiding of the pandemic.

Meetings at that time were online before moving to hybrid and then progressing back to full in-person meetings. It was the flexibility of council that allowed me to have a voice and being a part of changes for P&S employees. I was able to vote for and support changes in benefits and salary adjustments for employees while caring for my sick parent in the hospital or picking up my child from school. Being able to support my personal life while promoting my professional life at the university has made being on Council an unforgettable and promising experience.

YOU can make a difference in the experience of your fellow Professional and Scientific employees by joining Professional and Scientific Council!

Highlighting ISU Staff: Karen Hunt, Department of Agricultural and Biosystems Engineering

Procurement and Expense Specialist for Finance Delivery Karen Hunt is being honored in the Highlighting ISU Staff spotlight for January.

Karen was nominated by Kurt Rosentrater, associate professor in Agricultural and Biosystems Engineering, who commented, “Karen was instrumental in the success of bringing my study abroad program back to life in 2022. Workday was just coming online when I last taught my course in Paris in 2019, and then the COVID pandemic prevented the program from running for almost three years. She made the financial reconciling process seamless this past summer, even though it was a lot of work accounting for housing, food, entrance fees, air travel, etc. - especially in a different currency. Her professionalism and patience were key to facilitating my students’ experiences.”

Congratulations, Karen, 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 council’s Highlighting ISU Staff web page, and/or included in future newsletters.

Jamie Sass is the 2022-23 Professional and Scientific Council President

Email President Jamie Sass

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.
Make a difference! Join Professional and Scientific Council!

Learn More

Stay current with how Professional and Scientific Council works for you
Access past issues of the council newsletter

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