

News for Faculty – Friday, February 24, 2023

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Penn State Faculty Digest

The Faculty Digest provides faculty and instructors with relevant news and information about programs and resources that promote faculty success. Watch for these emails on the last Friday of every month (or earlier when there is a campus closure).

EVENTS AND TRAINING

Apply Now – New Leadership Program for Faculty

[Penn State Emerging Academic Leaders \(PSEAL\)](#) applications are open February 15 - March 3 via Workday. PSEAL is designed for faculty at the University interested in developing their leadership skills. The program is a blend of instructor-led seminars, engagements with mentors and mentees, and self-directed learning activities that help the participant explore leadership styles and best practices. Through these engagements, they will identify their strengths and development opportunities related to their personal academic leadership growth.

Penn State Forum Speaker Series Presents Sabaah Folayan: March 23, 2023

The 2022-23 Penn State Forum Speaker Series continues this spring, with speaker Sabaah Folayan. She will be presenting, “The Art of Alignment: How knowing yourself and having the courage to change course can lead to personal fulfillment and professional success.” [Visit the Forum website for more information on upcoming speaker and to purchase tickets/tables.](#)

Student Support Summit

[Register now for the First-Gen Student Support Summit!](#) This one-day university-wide event is scheduled for March 29, 2023. The event will feature an in-person kickoff breakfast at University Park (Heritage Hall, HUB) sponsored by the Student Success Center and Schreyer Institute for Teaching Excellence. The Summit is a wonderful opportunity to connect with colleagues and students surrounding the topic of first-gen student success at Penn State. Learn more [here](#) and at success.psu.edu/events.

The Student Success Center is seeking faculty to serve as first-gen student mentors and advocates. If you are interested in getting involved in our efforts to support first-generation students, please complete our engagement form [here](#).

Global Learning Summer Institute for Faculty

Do you have a course that you would like to infuse with a global dimension, or enhance with new global learning activities?

Penn State Global, EPPIC, and the Schreyer Institute for Teaching Excellence have partnered to bring opportunities for faculty in global learning professional development. As part of Penn State Global’s strategic plan, this new initiative supports full-time Penn

State faculty of any rank in incorporating global learning-oriented activities and student learning outcomes within domestic courses to enhance the internationalization of curricula. This initiative is the [Global Learning Summer Institute & Faculty Fellows Program](#). These fellowships aim to provide mentorship to faculty from a range of disciplines to add global dimensions to undergraduate courses across Penn State. Interested faculty are asked to complete this [online application](#) for the workshop by March 3.

Promotion and Tenure Workshops – Spring 2023

Tips for Writing a Narrative Statement

Thursday, March 16, 2:00-3:00 p.m.

Tips for Creating a Teaching Portfolio

Friday, March 24, 12:00-1:00 p.m.

For Zoom links and a full list of spring 2023 workshops, please visit <https://vpfa.psu.edu/promotion-and-tenure-workshop-series/>.

LATEST NEWS

A Message from the Office of Student Care and Advocacy

The Office of Student Care and Advocacy (SCA) wishes to provide clarity related to their faculty notification policy & practice:

- SCA does not have the authority to validate or authenticate absences.
- SCA will only reach out if a student is hospitalized without access to technology or if a student has lost a loved one and cannot communicate due to emotional distress.
- Outreach from SCA regarding a student's attendance is simply a notification and a request for flexibility as the student navigates this challenge.
- Students are instructed to work directly with their faculty on creation of a plan to make up any missed assignments when they are able to do so.

Three Emeritus Faculty Named Inaugural Atherton Professors

Penn State has recognized three faculty members as [Atherton Professors](#), a new distinction created by the University to recognize the continuing high level of scholarly or creative activity Evan Pugh University Professors may pursue after their retirement. George Andrews, Evan Pugh University Professor Emeritus of Mathematics; Abhay Ashtekar, Evan Pugh University Professor Emeritus of Physics; and James Kasting, Evan Pugh University Professor Emeritus of Geosciences, have been named the inaugural Atherton Professors, with an initial appointment of three years.

Provide Feedback about Activity Insight

If you'd like to share feedback about your experiences using Activity Insight, please take a brief survey [here](#).

New Open Access Agreements

Penn State University Libraries, through the Big Ten Academic Alliance (BTAA), recently finalized [three-year, 2023-25 agreements with three scholarly publishers](#). The agreements with Wiley, Institute of Physics and Microbiology Society will help to expand access to scholarly content, promote open access (OA) publishing and increase visibility of Penn State research.

Penn State Ranked #1 in Fulbright Scholars

Penn State has been ranked [first in the nation in Fulbright Scholar awards](#) by the U.S. Department of state's Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs. Penn State tied with the University of Arizona, with 17 faculty members offered Fulbright awards for academic year 2022-23.

Penn State Names Seven New Distinguished Professors

Penn State's Office of the Vice Provost for Faculty Affairs has named seven [distinguished professors](#) for 2023. The distinguished professor title recognizes outstanding academic contribution to the University. This special academic title is bestowed upon a limited number of professors who are leaders in their fields of research or creative activity and who have demonstrated significant leadership with respect to teaching, research or creative activity, and service.

New Remote Synchronous Course Mode

Penn State has implemented a new [remote synchronous course mode](#) and updated three others, affecting courses starting in fall 2023.

Tip Sheet for Conducting Reference Checks for Faculty Positions

A "[tip sheet](#)" that provides guidance about how to conduct reference checks for faculty positions is now available.

Spring Professional Development Opportunities for Teaching

- Penn State's teaching center, the Schreyer Institute for Teaching Excellence (SITE), offers [workshops, programs and short-courses](#), [custom workshops](#) for groups and academic units, [individual consultations](#) on any aspect of teaching, and multiple [grants](#) funding opportunities.
- Penn State's [Teaching and Learning with Technology](#) (TLT) units, [Creative Learning Initiatives](#), [IT Learning and Development](#), and the [Learning Design Team](#), offer workshops, programs, and individual consultations for faculty looking to enhance their teaching and learning through technology.
- SITE and TLT offer many continuous learning opportunities and professional development resources for Penn State faculty: [Faculty Professional Development Opportunities - Continuously Updated.docx](#)

COVID-19 Resources

The University continues to provide resources to help individuals stay safe and healthy and prevent the spread of COVID-19. Read more about University resources pertaining to masking, testing, vaccines, and more [here](#).

FOR MORE INFORMATION

To obtain comprehensive, updated information at any time, please review:

- The Office of the Vice Provost for Faculty Affairs [website](#)
- The University's comprehensive [COVID-19 resources](#)
- Previous issues of this [Digest](#)