

News for Faculty – Friday, April 28, 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).

LATEST NEWS

Three Selected as 2023-24 Administrative Fellows

The Administrative Fellows Program offers Penn State faculty and staff the opportunity to work with senior University officers to gain knowledge and experiences pertaining to leadership in the academic community. For the 2023-2024 academic year, the Administrative Fellows are:

- Melissa Doberstein, program director, Presidential Leadership Academy, Schreyer Honors College
- Scarlett Miller, professor, Engineering Design and Industrial Engineering, College of Engineering, School of Engineering Design and Innovation
- Juliet Pinto, associate professor, Department of Journalism, Donald P. Bellisario College of Communications

March and April Faculty Senate Meetings

- At its [March 28 meeting](#), the Penn State Faculty Senate passed legislation suggesting that instructors provide remote asynchronous classes on Election Day. The April 25 meeting included a report on Penn State's accountability as a land-grant institution to Indigenous lands and communities. At both the March and April meetings, the Senate heard reports from a special joint task force charged with implementing a new three-pillar framework for assessing faculty teaching performance. An informational report at the March meeting was followed by three reports at the April meeting: an Advisory and Consultative Report pertaining to implementation of student feedback within the framework, and informational reports pertaining to implementation of the other two pillars, peer review and faculty self-reflection. Implementation will begin during the summer.
- Senate election results were announced at the April 25 meeting. Congratulations to Josh Wede, a teaching professor in the College of the Liberal Arts, on being elected Senate Chair. Josh will serve as Chair-Elect for 2023-2024 and serve as Chair in 2024-2045. And congratulations to Michele Duffey, assistant teaching professor in the College of Health and Human Development, on being elected Secretary. Michele will serve as secretary for 2023-2024.

DEIB Discussion

During a virtual conversation for the University community, Penn State President Neeli Bendapudi and Special Adviser for Institutional Equity Jennifer Hamer discussed the [recent process to inventory DEIB programs](#) and resources across Penn State's campuses.

Advocate Penn State – Capital Day Campaign

[Advocate Penn State](#) is conducting their very important annual Capital Day campaign. Over 4,000 advocates have already emailed their state legislators in support of Penn State's annual appropriations request. If you have not taken action, please take 1 minute out of your day to do so. Many of you signed the Advocate Penn State petition in January, but this is a whole new campaign that puts you in direct contact with your elected officials.

Penn State's request this year is historic, and we need a strong turnout from our community to show the General Assembly that Penn Staters care about the funding that directly impacts us. State funding is a critical component of our Education & General budget, and we cannot operate at our full potential without adequate state support. On average, other public universities in Pennsylvania receive between \$8,200 and \$9,000 per student, while Penn State receives \$5,600 per student – that is \$2,600 and \$3,400 less per student than our in-state peers. This lack of funding puts a strain on our ability to invest in the high-quality programs that make Penn State the powerhouse that it is.

Please go to advocate.psu.edu or [click here to advocate now](#).

Faculty Awardees Recognized

Recipients of the [2023 faculty and staff awards](#) were recognized at a ceremony on April 13 at the Penn Stater Hotel and Conference Center. View a list of recipients of the faculty awards [here](#).

Free Speech Resources

To expand the Penn State community's [understanding of the First Amendment](#), University leaders have proactively engaged students, faculty, and staff in free speech conversations this semester and last. In addition, a [primer on the First Amendment](#) has been created.

EVENTS AND TRAINING

Student Engagement Summit

Registration is open for the [2023 Student Engagement Summit](#), giving faculty, staff, and graduate students the opportunity to learn more about strategies to promote student engagement. The 2023 Summit will be held on Thursday, May 18; the deadline to register is May 15. Details can be found [here](#).

Digital Education Exchange Retreat

Teaching and Learning with Technology (TLT) is hosting a three-day [Digital Education Exchange Retreat \(DEER\)](#) from May 23-25 for faculty interested in becoming more confident and agile digital educators. Interested faculty, adjunct instructors, lecturers and staff (e.g., instructional designers) who will teach during the fall 2023 or spring 2024 semesters are [invited to apply](#) by April 30.

2023 Values, Ethics and Compliance Training

The [2023 Values, Ethics and Compliance training](#) was released on Tuesday, March 28, as part of Penn State's compliance training plan. All employees, both full and part time, as well as graduate assistants and graduate fellows, are required to complete this annual training by May 15.

Upcoming Professional Development Opportunities for Teaching

- Penn State's university-wide teaching center, the Schreyer Institute for Teaching Excellence (SITE), offers customized [programming](#) for groups from any campus or college—all you need to do is [reach out!](#) We sponsor a number of [grants](#) and [consult with instructors](#) to discuss any aspects of their teaching.
- 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](#)