

**Friday, November 17, 2023**

### **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).

The Office of the Vice Provost for Faculty Affairs wishes all faculty members an enjoyable and restful Thanksgiving break!

### **LATEST NEWS**

#### **Benefit Mentor/Benefits Selection Due Today**

Today (Friday, November 17) is the last day for employees to [elect their benefits for 2024](#). Employees can utilize the Benefits Mentor, a tool designed to help employees determine which health care plan may be best for them and their families. This tool is available in Workday and WorkLion as part of Benefits Open Enrollment.

#### **Assessment of Teaching Effectiveness Update**

The [Student Educational Experience Questionnaire](#) (SEEQ) is available to students right now up until the end of week 14 of class. [Strategies for increasing response rates](#) can be found on the SITE website.

#### **Track 2 of BUILD@Penn State**

As part of the University's ongoing commitment to combating bias and intolerance and building a more diverse, equitable institution, Penn State launched [Track 2 of the BUILD@Penn State](#) program on November 3. [Track 2 will be available in the LRN](#) to all University employees who were hired before July 31.

#### **Teaching amidst tension and conflict**

The Schreyer Institute for Teaching Excellence (SITE) offers resources for faculty related to teaching during times of conflict:

- [Taking ACTION on Disruptions or Microaggressions](#)
- [Navigating Disruptions](#)
- [Trauma Informed Teaching Practices](#)
- [Teaching During Times of Global Tensions and Violence](#)
- [Avoiding and Confronting Anti-Semitism and Islamophobia](#)

#### **Activity Insight Topic of the Month**

Did you know the Faculty Activity Management Services team has a Teams chat? You can reach them Monday - Friday 8am-5pm here: [Activity Insight Support Help](#).

#### **Faculty Passing**

Yifei Huang, assistant professor of biology, passed away on October 16. Our deepest sympathies to his colleagues, friends, and family.

## **FACULTY OPPORTUNITIES**

### **Administrative Fellows**

Applications are being sought for the [Administrative Fellows program for 2024-25](#). The program offers faculty and staff the opportunity to work with senior University leaders to gain insight pertaining to the challenges of leadership in the academic community. Applicants may be full-time, tenure-line or non-tenure-line faculty members who have held appointments of five years or longer. The deadline to apply is January 25, 2024. More information is available on the Office of the Vice Provost for Faculty Affairs [website](#).

### **CTSI Early-Stage Investigator Training Program**

Penn State Clinical and Translational Science Institute is accepting applications for its [Early-Stage Investigator Training Program \(KL2\)](#) to provide research training. Applicants must be full-time junior faculty with a research or practice doctorate at the rank of assistant professor.

### **Employee Resource Groups**

Penn State recently launched [University-wide Employee Resource Groups \(ERGs\)](#), which are voluntary, employee-led groups open to all faculty and staff. Rainbow Roar, Penn State's first University-wide LGBTQ+ ERG, was unveiled on October 25 during LGBT History Month. A second ERG, Vet-aLIONce, for servicemembers, veterans, families, and their allies, was unveiled at the Penn State Employee and Student Military Service Recognition Breakfast on November 10.

## **EVENTS AND TRAINING**

### **Lunch with LEADS**

Faculty are invited to join colleagues at [Lunch with LEADS](#), which focuses on the experiences of women in higher education. This second event in the series will be held from noon to 1:15 p.m. on December 6 at the Hintz Family Alumni Center on the University Park campus.

### **Free Health and Wellness Webinars**

Faculty and staff can take advantage of various [health and well being webinars](#) through the end of 2023.

### **Inclusive Learning Sessions**

Adam Finkelstein, the co-lead of EDUCAUSE's Learning Spaces Design Community Group, will lead [sessions on inclusive learning environments](#) as part of Penn State Teaching and Learning with Technology's Dreamery Speaker Series. The sessions will take place December 4 and 5 at the Dreamery and a virtual option is available. Register [here](#).

### **Upcoming Professional Development Opportunities for Teaching**

- The Schreyer Institute for Teaching Excellence (SITE), Penn State's university-wide teaching center offers a variety of services and programs. All instructors are welcome to request a [teaching consultation](#) with a faculty consultant. Instructors may be particularly interested in these events and resources:
  - Do you have questions about the new student feedback instrument ([SEEQ](#)) or how to prepare for the [self-reflection](#) expected for your faculty annual review for 2023? Contact us at [site@psu.edu](mailto:site@psu.edu).
  - Five resources for [Addressing Student Trauma, Tensions, and Disruptions in your Courses](#)
- 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](#)

#### **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](#)