

Friday, January 26, 2024

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

Road Map for Penn State

President Neeli Bendapudi and select members of her senior leadership team are outlining how several key initiatives announced this past year fit within the vision for Penn State's future, and are beginning to articulate a road map for the strategic direction of the University. More information is available [here](#).

COINS Transformation

Starting in Fall 2024, you will have **one** system for Researcher and University Official COINS disclosures and AC80 Conflict of Commitment disclosures. You will have the same [disclosure requirements](#), but you will complete **one online disclosure form** that covers two primary disclosure policies for Researchers ([RP06](#) and [AC80](#)) and addresses the disclosure requirements for University Officials ([AD83](#)). No more PDFs!

There is nothing you need to do right now. COINS and all the current disclosure processes will remain the same for Spring 2024. You will complete your Researcher and University Official Disclosures in COINS and your AC80 Conflict of Commitment disclosure in a PDF. COINS will contact you when you need to take action in the transformed system. Visit the [COINS Transformation Project website](#) for the latest updates and valuable resources.

New Faculty and Staff Employee Assistance Program

Penn State's new [Employee Assistance Program \(EAP\) provider](#), SupportLinc, went live on January 1. New services include personal coaching, text therapy, virtual counseling support, and a mental health navigator.

Students in Crisis

The Penn State Crisis Line is available 24/7 across all Penn State Commonwealth campuses at 1-877-229-6400 for enrolled students experiencing a mental health emergency. The Penn State Crisis Line can also be used by faculty for consultation if they know of or are with a student who is experiencing a mental health crisis. The student of concern does not need to be present on the call. Sharing as much information as possible with the crisis line increases the opportunities for the student to receive as much support as possible. (Note: Individuals calling the Penn State Crisis Line must be in the United States).

Other resources for faculty include [Life Hack Kits](#), which allow faculty to conveniently and meaningfully incorporate wellbeing into the classroom, and the [Red Folder Toolkit](#), which provides a comprehensive orientation to helping students experiencing distress.

Penn State Global Emergency Preparedness Workshop

Penn State Global (PSG) is thrilled to introduce the latest Emergency Preparedness Workshop (EPW), specifically crafted for leaders embarking on international journeys. This workshop is designed for faculty, staff, and student leaders who guide groups during university-affiliated international travel. Leaders are required to undergo this training every two years, with the EPW serving as a valuable refresher for the Predeparture Orientation for Leaders (POL). Each session focuses on a single scenario, drawn from real-life experiences, covering topics such as natural disaster response, injuries, mental health emergencies, accidental death, and more.

To register, please complete the [Emergency Preparedness Workshop](#) registration form. If you have any questions about sessions, registration, or other related matters, please contact Global Safety at 814-863-8788 or globalsafety@psu.edu.

Satellite Phone Loan Program

Penn State Global Safety manages a complimentary satellite cellular phone loan program available to faculty, staff, and students. To be eligible, the travel must be international and aligned with Penn State's academic objectives. The satellite phones (SAT phones) are specifically provided for individuals traveling alone or leading groups to remote or rural destinations. These destinations should be in regions with limited or nearly nonexistent cellular service, thereby posing an increased risk to the individual or group.

To register, please complete the [SAT Phone Request](#) registration form. If you have any questions about additional program details, registration, or other related matters, please contact Global Safety at 814-863-8788 or globalsafety@psu.edu.

Schreyer Institute Teaching and Learning Scholarship Grants Awarded

The Schreyer Institute for Teaching Excellence has named the recipients of its [2023-2024 Teaching and Learning Scholarship conference grants](#), which provide Penn State instructors the opportunity to share their scholarship related to teaching and learning in Penn State courses.

Faculty Passing

Dipo Onipede, associate professor of mechanical engineering at Penn State Erie, The Behrend Campus, passed away on January 9, 2024. A link to his obituary can be found [here](#).

EVENTS AND TRAINING

Forum Speaker Series featuring Penn State's Laureate

The Penn State Forum Speaker Series returns this semester with a talk by Lori Hepner, 2023-24 Penn State Laureate, on February 21 at the Penn Stater Conference Center Hotel on the University Park campus. Hepner's lecture is titled, "Making the Invisible Visible." Tickets can be purchased [here](#).

Activity Insight Training

Activity Insight Training for the Spring 2024 semester will be on the dates and times below. This year we are trying 3 days with 3 different times each day to reach more people. Trainings will be recorded and posted on our MediaSpace channel (<https://psu.mediaspace.kaltura.com/channel/Activity+Insight+at+Penn+State/265985062>) the week after training.

Please do not click on the Zoom link until one of the dates/times below:

<https://psu.zoom.us/j/97086096939>

Monday January 29th, Tuesday January 30th and Wednesday January 31st, 3 times on each day: 9:00-10:30 a.m., 12:00-1:30 p.m., 3:00-4:30 p.m.

Classroom-to-Community Program

Instructors who need fresh and innovative ideas to design a new and authentic course assignment, or who have an old assignment that needs a revamp, are invited to apply to the [Classroom-to-Community \(C2C\) program](#). Sponsored by Teaching and Learning with Technology (TLT), the program provides faculty the opportunity to critically evaluate their course assignments and transform traditional assignments into authentic, renewable experiences that foster digital fluency among students.

Upcoming Professional Development Opportunities for Teaching

- [SITE faculty](#) are available to discuss these [self-reflection resources](#) for annual reviews.
- The Schreyer Institute offers [Peer Review of Teaching Grants](#) to support academic units as they update peer review guidelines.
- [Registration](#) is open for the Endorsement on [Inclusive and Equitable Teaching](#), part of the new Provost Endorsement Program
- SITE faculty consultants are here to help you understand, interpret and respond to student feedback. You can schedule a meeting to discuss your SEEQ results or to how to collect [midsemester feedback](#).
- SITE offers an upcoming workshop on "Introduction to Teaching Squares, a collaborative, non-evaluative peer observation of teaching among a group of instructors, Friday, 1/26/2024, Noon - 1:00 p.m. by Zoom. [Register](#)
- Penn State's [Teaching and Learning with Technology](#) (TLT) units, [Creative Learning Initiatives](#) and the [Learning Design Team](#), along with [IT Learning and Development](#) 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](#)
- Previous issues of this [Digest](#)