

Friday, November 22, 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).

All of us in the Office of Faculty Affairs hope that you enjoy the upcoming break! We are so appreciative of all you do on behalf of your students and your many contributions to our community. Our wish for each of you is that you can take some time now to rest, relax, and enjoy being with friends and family so that you return ready to manage the always hectic final weeks of the semester.

LATEST NEWS AND OPPORTUNITIES

Student Educational Experience Questionnaire Now Open

The end-of-semester SEEQ, Student Educational Experience Questionnaire, is open. Discussing the SEEQs with your students when you return from break is one way you can encourage their participation.

Students need to know that you care about and read their feedback and use it to improve your courses. Provide some examples of student suggestions you've implemented to improve the course. Many students are unaware that the SEEQs are part of the information used to evaluate teaching, and that administrators receive the feedback. You may want to clarify that you are not telling them this to get only positive feedback, but also learn how best to revise the course moving forward. Additional ideas for what to say to students are available in this document, [Talking to Students about the SEEQ](#). In addition, [strategies for increasing response rates](#) can be found on the SITE website.

An email was sent to instructors on Monday from donotreply@psu.edu. If this went to your junk mail folder you may want to add this to your safe sender list. The email included links to the [student webpage](#) and to the [instructor webpage](#). Please visit the instructor page (scroll down past the MSEEQ section) to the SEEQ section; check that all of your courses are listed.

Please note that for full semester courses the **end date is Sunday, December 8, at midnight**; SEEQs are not open in the last week of the semester, at students' request.

Schreyer Honors College Associate Dean for Academic Affairs position

Schreyer Honors College seeks an Associate Dean for Academic Affairs (ADAA) to join our dynamic leadership team. This role offers a unique opportunity to oversee and enhance academic programs, collaborate with faculty and staff across the university, and lead initiatives that impact students' academic and civic engagement. If you are a visionary leader committed to excellence and innovation in honors education, we encourage you to apply and make a lasting difference in our community.

The position is listed here:

[https://www.myworkday.com/psu/d/inst/15\\$392530/9925\\$169115.html#](https://www.myworkday.com/psu/d/inst/15$392530/9925$169115.html#)

Non-Tenure-Line Faculty May Apply for Opportunity Grants

Non-tenure-line teaching, clinical, and research faculty and professors of practice may now apply to the [Opportunity Grant Professional Development Program](#). [Applications are due December 9](#) for funding for the 2025-26 academic year. To be eligible, faculty must have reached the second rank or higher, have worked full-time at Penn State for five consecutive years or more, and have the support of their academic unit head.

Nominations Accepted for Rosemary Schraer Mentoring Award

Nominations are now being accepted for the [Rosemary Schraer Mentoring Award](#), which is presented each year to a Penn State employee, regardless of gender, who exemplifies Schraer's giving of herself as a mentor and who has voluntarily, over a breadth of time, helped others recognize and achieve their potential. The deadline for submitting a [nomination](#) is December 6.

Nominations Sought for 2025-26 Penn State Laureate

The University is seeking nominees for the role of 2025-26 [Penn State Laureate](#), with [nominations due by Friday, December 6](#). The Laureate is a full-time faculty member who is assigned half-time to this role for one academic year. The Laureate has opportunities throughout the year to bring their artistic perspectives to a variety of audiences.

Academic Portfolio and Program Review (APPR) Update

The APPR Workstream team continued its work, collaborating with Hanover to develop workstreams #1, the Bachelor's and Associate's Degree Portfolio Review and #2 State Labor Assessment, and refining the focus of workstreams #3 and #4. Workstream #3 will include the development of a Commonwealth Programming and Employment Alignment Dashboard, and workstream #4 will focus on the long-term refinement of processes to be used for future reviews. Learn more about the first three [workstreams](#).

Interim executive vice president and provost Tracy Langkilde joined the Insight Session held on Thursday, November 21, and provided a high-level APPR update on the intersection between APPR and other University-wide initiatives like Future State and strategic planning.

The recording of the Insight Sessions and presentation materials can be found on the [website](#). More information and the latest updates can be found at the [APPR website](#), and individuals can [sign up for the APPR newsletter online](#). Email questions to appr@psu.edu.

Penn State to Conduct Faculty Satisfaction Survey in 2025

In February 2025, Penn State will [launch a nationally recognized satisfaction survey](#) for all eligible full-time faculty as part of a joint effort between Penn State's Office of the

Executive Vice President and Provost and the University Faculty Senate. Administered by the Collaborative on Academic Careers in Higher Education (COACHE) at Harvard University, the survey will provide critical insight into the lived experiences of full-time faculty and identify areas of strength and for improvement. More information is available on Penn State's [COACHE website](#).

Applications Open for SJRC Equity Fellows

The Social Science Research Institute and the Clinical and Translational Science Institute are seeking applications for their inaugural [Social Justice Research Council \(SJRC\) Equity Fellows program](#) for the 2025-26 academic year. The deadline to apply is January 27, 2025. The [program](#) is open to all Penn State faculty regardless of appointment type, rank, or campus location.

Administrative Fellows Program Accepting Applications

Applicants are being sought for the [Administrative Fellows Program](#) for 2025-26. The program offers Penn State faculty and staff the opportunity to work with senior University officers to gain insight pertaining to the challenges of leadership in the academic community. The application deadline is January 30, 2025. Visit the [Office of Faculty Affairs website](#) for more information about the program.

Nominations Open for Penn State Global Awards

Penn State Global is now accepting nominations for the [2025 Advancing a Global Penn State Awards](#), the purpose of which is to recognize outstanding contributions of individuals and academic units across the University. Completed [application](#) packages are due January 10, 2025.

Red Folder Initiative Helps Assist Students in Distress

Counseling and Psychological Services (CAPS) reminds faculty about the [importance of the Red Folder](#), which is designed to help identify and assist students experiencing various levels of distress. Faculty are encouraged to take the Red Folder course, available on the Learning Resource Network (LRN), to enhance their awareness and response capabilities. The Red Folder is part of a comprehensive toolkit that includes a physical folder, the [Red Folder website](#), and the LRN course.

BUILD @ Penn State launches Track 3

As part of the University's ongoing commitment to combating bias and intolerance and building a more diverse and equitable institution, Penn State has launched [Track 3 of the BUILD @ Penn State program](#). All three tracks are available through the [Learning Resource Network \(LRN\)](#).

EVENTS AND OTHER FACULTY DEVELOPMENT OPPORTUNITIES

Academic Advising Seminar open to all faculty

All faculty and staff are invited to join the next [academic advising seminar](#) on Wednesday, December 4 at 11:00 a.m. in zoom (<https://psu.zoom.us/j/97744424443>).

This seminar will address, “*Relationships in Academic Advising: Establishing rapport and building trust with students*” presented by Dr. Heather Atkinson, Undergraduate Studies Adviser in the Division of Undergraduate Studies. In [Advising Matters: The importance of a shared understanding of academic advising](#), Dr. Smith and Dr. Schulenberg emphasized the importance of building trusting relationships with students within academic advising. Developing rapport and trust between individuals requires specific skills that can assist advisers in getting to know each student as an individual. This seminar will review these skills that help create strong relationships with students within the academic advising context. For questions about the academic advising seminar series, contact Dr. Hilleary Himes (hxs220@psu.edu).

Schreyer Institute for Teaching Excellence: Grant Opportunity

Apply for a conference registration grant to attend the 2025 Virtual [AAC&U Conference on Learning and Student Success \(CLASS\)](#). CLASS is designed to elevate, amplify, and extend AAC&U's core work on transforming student learning and the undergraduate experience. To be considered for this registration grant, please complete [this brief form](#) by December 20, 2024.

Inclusive and Ethical Pedagogy Series: Exploring the Potential of the Syllabus

December 17, 12.15-1:15 p.m.

The Inclusive and Ethical Pedagogy Series, sponsored by the Schreyer Institute for Teaching Excellence and the Equity Pedagogy Network, explores how instructors might implement inclusive and ethical pedagogy, as described in the Elements of Effective Teaching. This session focuses on the syllabus as a tool to support student learning and success. [Register](#)

Inclusive Teaching Sparkshop Series

In early December, SITE will offer 4 brief (20-minute) sparkshop sessions that are designed to ignite your creativity and thinking around inclusive teaching as you plan your spring courses. [Register](#)

TLT Resources

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. Faculty may be interested in attending the event below:

- **Dreamery Speaker Series: Inclusive Learning and Accessibility with featured speaker, Luis Perez**
- Wednesday, 12/4, Located in the Dreamery
- [Registration now open](#)

Full List of Faculty Professional Development Resources – SITE and TLT

SITE and TLT offer many continuous learning opportunities and professional development resources for Penn State faculty: [Faculty Professional Development Opportunities -Continuously Updated.docx](#)

2025 EAP Mental Health Series

The Employee Assistance Program (EAP) is offering a winter/spring 2025 Mental Health Series. Sessions are available on the Learning Resource Network (LRN). Faculty members can enroll on the LRN beginning January 1. Additional content, resources and support are available at <https://hr.psu.edu/current-employee/health-wellbeing/supportlinc>. Click [here](#) to see a complete list of upcoming EAP webinars in the LRN (2025 content is not yet posted).

Mental Health First Aid and R U OK

Wednesday, February 12, 2025 11 AM-12:00 PM

Understanding Anxiety

Thursday, March 6, 2025 11 AM-12:00 PM

Healthy Workplace Relationships: Developing Supportive Connections

Wednesday, April 2, 2025 11 AM-12:00 PM

Talking about Mental Health in the Workplace

Wednesday, May 7, 2025 11 AM-12:00 PM

FOR MORE INFORMATION

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

- The Office of Faculty Affairs [website](#)
- Previous issues of this [Digest](#)