

# ***Save the Date: May 19*** ***Staff Development Day***

## **Thanks to all the creative and productive Staff Council representatives**

Your Staff Council representatives have been working diligently since the new members were installed last August. The chairs of each committee have earned my respect and gratitude for the projects they are undertaking. Every committee member has given generously of their time and creativity to these efforts. Now is a great time for a general update to our TWU staff community.

## **Save the date MAY 19 for Staff Development Day**

Everyone is invited to attend the Staff Development Day events and luncheon. Post the May 19<sup>th</sup> date on your calendars. The theme focuses on wellness, in all of its components. We are planning sessions about being a healthy individual ... in total ... physically, emotionally, financially. The luncheon keynote speaker is our own TWU enthusiast, Dr. Barney Sanborn, Chair and Professor, Kinesiology Department. I know she will inspire and invigorate everyone to take at least one step toward self improvement. By holding sessions that repeat morning and afternoon, we hope you can attend one or the other, or any combination of times that work for you. MORE INFORMATION about registration and the schedule of events will be forthcoming. Looking forward to sharing, time, ideas, camaraderie and positive energy with our fellow staff members.

## **Wellness Proposal: time-for-exercise policy**

On the topic of wellness, we are thrilled to make a significant announcement. Staff Council prepared and presented a Wellness Proposal to Chancellor Stuart for consideration: reinstating the time-for-exercise benefit for staff to add extra time to the lunch hour in order to utilize TWU facilities for fitness activities. This will be even more exciting and useful when the new fitness center is complete and opens in summer, 2011. Chancellor Stuart responded to our proposal by saying:

“Dear Staff Council:

“I have read your proposal to reinstate the “extra-time-for-exercise” benefit for TWU staff members. It is apparent that a great deal of thought and research has gone into this proposal. The proposal will be given serious consideration.

“I have asked Mr. Lewis Benavides and his staff members to review the proposal for administrative implementation issues and to respond to me by the end of the month of April. At that point, I will ask the Cabinet to make a recommendation to me regarding implementation of the proposal.

“Thank you for your efforts to make TWU a more healthy environment.”

Ann Stuart, Ph.D.  
Chancellor and President

Mr. Lewis Benavides, Staff Council Advisor and Director of Human Resources, gave his report at the April meeting saying that TWU administration is working to implement a wellness policy (specific details are soon to be defined). The goal is to have the benefit in place by Fall 2010. Mr. Benavides suggested that Staff Council work with Mr. John Cissik, Director of Fitness and Recreation, on a marketing and public relations campaign. Look for more information to be announced.

### **Proud of new logo for Staff Council**

Announcements will be posted on the Staff Council website, which has been successfully converted to the Red Dot system and features our new logo. The Minutes from the August 2009 through March 2010 meetings are now posted for your access. Thanks for your patience during this non-communicative transition period. Our goal is to keep the site current, as well as to add information in the future that will be useful for all staff at TWU. In progress: updating a Staff Resources Guide, consolidating a list of training sources available on campus, and activating a link to post Pioneer Proud award nominations all year long.

### **Pioneer Proud awards ceremony and celebration**

#### **Online access to Pioneer Proud nomination form**

I am certain each and every one of you deserves recognition and should be rewarded for the everyday dedication you demonstrate to the students and the university. Having the online link accessible and active at all times will make it much easier for each of us to take a moment to make the nomination at the time of the service. Hopefully, we will increase next spring's Pioneer Proud ceremony and celebration to include many more deserving staff members. To participate in the budget reductions each component is making, Staff Council voted to host only one Pioneer Proud event annually, making it a special celebratory event with more variety in prizes. It was a pleasure this time to have Chancellor Stuart join us for this staff recognition event. Special thanks to the Rewards and Recognition Committee for a fine job in hosting this spring.

### **Chancellor Stuart to attend May 11 Council meeting**

Chancellor Stuart has attended one of our 2009 meetings to provide accurate information about enrollment management, the rumors of consolidation and the current year budget status. For details of this discussion, please refer to the December 2009 Minutes. Dr. Stuart will again be our guest at the May 11 meeting (2:00 p.m., Stoddard Hall 402). Our meetings are open to anyone wanting to attend. You are encouraged to send via email any question you would like to ask or topic you would like raised. Feel free to contact me with suggestions and comments that I will be pleased to bring forward for discussion. You may also at any time contact your own or any representative member. Check the website for the current list of council members and the EEOC groups served. Contact information is detailed there.

### **Issues form available for online submissions**

We also have an online "Issues Form" that you can find in the "Talk to Us" section of our website. This form is automatically sent to me as your Staff Council President.

### **Nominations and Elections for 2010-2013 council vacancies**

It is an honor and a privilege for me to serve in this capacity. My sincere desire is to make some little difference for all of us. My term ends in August when the new council elects its Executive Committee. Timelines for nominations and elections will be announced soon. All staff members with one year of employment are eligible to serve on the Staff Council as a representative for their EEO Code. The specifics of this process are detailed in the Constitution and By-Laws posted on the website. Everyone serves a three-year term and can be considered for appointment to a position on the Executive Committee after one-year of council service.

It is rewarding to advocate for your peers; it makes a difference to influence staff issues; and it is a source of great pride to be involved in the annual events hosted by Staff Council, Pioneer Proud and Staff Development Day, as well as representing council during Honors Convocation, Commencement ceremonies and numerous other university functions. I encourage you to seek this opportunity. I have come to know well and appreciate people that would never have been in my workday zone. There is an exceptional wealth of intelligence, capability, creativity and competence among us, not to mention enthusiasm for making positive changes in our campus community. Thank you, Anne Downing