



DIVISION OF STUDENT AFFAIRS

Student Affairs News for You

University award recipients, learning and growth opportunities, Latinx Heritage Month, and more

Monday, September 11, 2023

Dear Colleague,

May we continue to commemorate the firefighters, police, paramedics, and civilian support staff members who risked their lives for those in need 22 years ago on 9/11/2001. We remember!

I have a deep regard for those who serve. It is one of the reasons I carry so much gratitude for you and the many ways you support and serve our community. As we enter our third week of the semester, I hope you are settling in and finding your rhythm. I know the last month has been filled with some heavy-lifting to get us to open the campus for our 40K students. You have done beautiful work and it shows. Thank you! Thank you for serving, leading, and caring!

DSA Strategic Plan

I want to express my thanks for the nearly 100 DSA departmental leadership members who participated in a review of our strategic plan during another review session two weeks ago. I know they showed up during a busy time. Their thoughtful feedback will be integrated into the plan's next iteration.

We are approaching the finish line with our strategic planning process. I look forward to introducing the last draft of our strategic plan during our [DSA Town Hall](#) on Wednesday, October 4. Thank you all for your continued contribution and engagement with this important work! We are creating a shared vision for our work together!

Latinx Heritage Month

The Latinx Student Involvement Team has programmed many events for [Latinx Heritage Month](#), from September 15 to October 15. This year's theme is "Creciendo Con Amor," ("Growing with Love.") It is a celebration of the growth and love of the Latinx community at UMD.

The Latinx Student Involvement Team promotes student development and campus participation for Latinx students. They are committed to creating and maintaining a campus environment where Latinx identity and issues are affirmed and supported, and they help students succeed through personal growth opportunities,



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organizational involvement, and community development. I am grateful for their excellent work. I hope to see you at some of these programs.

National Preparedness Month

September is National Preparedness Month and we want you to be UMD Ready! Visit the [Office of Emergency Management and Business Continuity's website](#) for more information and to download resources like the [Be UMD Ready booklet](#) or [Emergency Guide](#). And, you can sign up for a 45-minute [Be UMD Ready: Emergency Preparedness learning Zoom session](#) that's offered throughout September.

Investing in People and Our Communities

Faculty & Staff Convocation Recognition

I can't share often enough how proud I am of the good work that happens in this division. I am thrilled that at this year's Faculty & Staff Convocation, four of our staff will receive university recognition for their amazing contributions to our community. Please join me in congratulating these exemplary colleagues:

President's Distinguished Service Award Recipients

Claudia Funes, Coordinator, Dining Services

For almost 30 years, Claudia has led several retail units in Dining Services. While working at the Maryland Dairy in Turner Hall, she transformed the shop into a focal point of our community, and was instrumental in transitioning the Dairy to its busy location at The Stamp. Claudia has welcomed and mentored many of Dining's service staff into leadership roles. She is devoted to customer service and growing relationships with guests.

Valerie LaHoud, Business Manager, Student Organization Resource Center, The Stamp

An employee of The Stamp since 1986, Val has coached and mentored hundreds of students. She is a frontline administrator who gets administrative processes done with great accuracy, all while nurturing our students' aspirations. Our students have lauded the lessons they've learned from Val as equal to some of the most critical lessons they've learned in the classroom.

Heather Teitelbaum, Clinical Director, University Health Center

Heather has consistently gone beyond the call of duty to protect the health, safety and well-being of our community. From leading COVID-19 testing coordination to vaccine operations and so much more, Heather's leadership on the Incident Response Team helped keep our community safe during the pandemic. Her commitment, competence, and compassion are extraordinary.

Sharon LaVoy Data Impact Award



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Kate Siplon Blanch, *Director for Data Services and Analytics, OVPSA*

Kate helps the division leverage institutional data to make strategic and practical decisions. Her exceptional work was instrumental in ensuring the success of the campus COVID-19 testing and compliance programs. Despite having no existing infrastructure and strict deadlines to adhere to, Kate was able to create applications for notification, registration, and reporting, which allowed members of the community to participate in the mandatory testing program and helped administrators monitor the program's progress. She is a highly innovative individual who works tirelessly behind the scenes to find solutions.

DSA Learning and Growth Series Launches in October

Another component of our division's [professional development blueprint](#) launches next month: the **DSA Learning and Growth Series**. Every month, the series will focus on one of the eight dimensions of wellness. We'll kick things off in October with an introduction to wellness and behavior change. More details are forthcoming. We are lifelong learners committed to our growth, and we know that learning enhances our work and our lives! We are investing in you!

University System of Maryland (USM) Professional Development Week

The USM Learning and Talent Development Committee will host its [third annual USM-wide Professional Development Week](#) from September 18 - 22. This virtual event is free for all USM employees and offers learning tracks such as Workplace Productivity, Personal Leadership Mastery, Inclusion and Belonging, and Wellness for the Workplace. I am grateful to serve as a panelist for the opening session.

Until we connect again, stay well,

Patty Perillo, Ph.D.

Vice President for Student Affairs, University of Maryland
she/ her/ hers

Save the Dates

- [Family Weekend](#) -- Friday, September 29 to Sunday, October 1
- [DSA Town Hall](#) -- Wednesday, October 4 from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m.