



DIVISION OF STUDENT AFFAIRS

Student Affairs News for YOU: Latinx/a/o/e Employee Association, Learning and Growth Series, ADS website
Monday, October 23, 2023

Dear Colleague,

I hope you are continuing to find ways to care for yourself and each other as we witness and experience the continued elevated Israel-Gaza conflict. Always remember there are people and services here to support you, as needed.

I was reflecting on our recent DSA Town Hall meeting, as we are coming to the close of our strategic planning process. I want to thank the hundreds of DSA staff who contributed feedback that day, and throughout this past year. Final feedback from the DSA Town Hall has been sent to a consultant, who will prepare a final draft for divisional leadership to review in mid-November. We will release the final version at the start of the spring 2024 semester. This plan will also be released with an implementation strategy.

This strategic plan will chart the course for our Division for the next five years. It encompasses much of the great work that you are already doing. Your voice has been invaluable! I know we will continue doing great things together with this shared vision for our work, which we co-created as divisional colleagues.

Investing in People and Our Communities

Latinx/a/o/e Employee Association at UMD

[The Latinx/a/o/e Employee Association \(LEA\)](#) has officially launched! The LEA brings visibility to our diverse Latinx/o/a/e community on campus and advocates for relevant needs and interests. They aim to strengthen the Latinx/o/a/e sense of community, increase the recruitment and retention of Latinx/a/o/e students, staff, and faculty, support professional development, and engage in outreach and mentoring initiatives. [Join the mailing list](#) and/or [become a member!](#)

DSA Learning and Growth Series Launches This Week

We continue our commitment to your thriving with the launch of the new DSA Learning and Growth Series! Offered monthly, this year's series will focus on the Eight Dimensions of Wellness. The dimensions recognize the interconnectedness of our social, physical, emotional, financial, environmental, intellectual, and vocational wellness. These sessions are designed to help you enhance your overall well-being and lead a healthier, more fulfilling life. [Register for an upcoming session](#)—the first one is this Wednesday, October 25 at 1 p.m.

Updates at The Accessibility & Disability Service (ADS)

[ADS launched a new and expanded website!](#) The site was developed in collaboration with students registered with ADS, student leaders across campus, as well as campus colleagues and partners. It provides comprehensive information on who is eligible for disability accommodations, and how ADS supports students with disabilities:

- Registration process and opportunities for consultation with ADS staff members
- Tailored guidance for various student populations (ex. graduate, undergraduate)
- Accessibility accommodations for students in academics, workplace, and housing
- Highlighted campus resources for students, faculty, and staff

In addition to the new website, ADS' Deaf and Hard of Hearing Services (DHHS) unit is now known as Communication Access Services (CAS). This change better aligns with the scope of work completed within this unit. CAS will continue to provide sign language interpreting, transcription, and captioning services for university students and provide guidance and expertise to departments and other campus entities who need assistance in scheduling these services.

Did You Know?

- You can access files and video from past DSA events, like Council Conversations and Town Halls, in the [Divisional Events Google folder](#)? When visiting the folder, make sure you're signed in to your university email account to see past events!
- The average number of transactions at the concession stands, managed by Dining Services, during a football game this season is 14,805.
- Approximately 25 student groups, and 6 off-campus groups, sign-up to work in the concession stands as a way to raise funds for their programs. And, Dining Services paid over \$140,000 to these non-profit organizations as Concession Stand Commissions!
- 15,435 pounds of roma tomatoes were harvested this summer on our farm which made 2,950 gallons of fresh marinara and 265 gallons of roasted garlic basil pizza sauce. And, 1,290 pounds of fresh basil was harvested; this became 697 quarts of fresh basil pesto.

Have an interesting or little-known tidbit you think others in DSA might like to learn about? Email it to us at vpsa@umd.edu and we may feature it in a future DSA News For You message. You can also send us the questions you'd like to see answered!

May we all continue to lead with love, kindness, and care,

Patty Perillo, Ph.D.

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

Save the Dates

- [Understanding and Confronting Politicized Attacks on Diversity, Equity and Inclusion in Education:](#)
Wednesday, October 25, 5:30 p.m., The Hotel