



DIVISION OF STUDENT AFFAIRS

DSA News For You

Monday, April 8, 2024

Dear DSA Colleague,

It's National Student Employment Week! Our student employees make so much of what we do possible. They enrich our campus through their dedication and hard work and they are learning along the way! This week we'll be celebrating some of our most Outstanding Student Employees at a DSA Celebration in thanks for all of their contributions. I hope you'll take some time this week to personally let the student employees you see know what a big difference they make at UMD.

Take UMD's Belonging and Community Survey

The university's [Belonging and Community at UMD](#) survey is officially open now through Friday, April 26, 2024. As a campus community invested in the success and well-being of our people, this survey is an important way for us to understand the experiences of our students, faculty, and staff so that we can create a better, more inclusive future for our university. [Please, please, please take 15 minutes to complete the survey.](#)

Prizes and incentives are available as a gesture of thanks for taking the survey:

- For every survey completed by faculty and staff, \$1 will be given to the Campus Pantry or Student Crisis Fund.
- A total of \$10,000 is available for campus competitions recognizing units with the highest participation rates.
- Students who complete the survey will have a chance to win athletics giveaways and create an ice cream flavor at the Maryland Dairy.

Conversation Flags in Campus Dining Halls

The Dining Services Advisory Board (DSAB) came up with a great idea to get students more engaged and in conversation with each other in our dining halls. With the help of our Dining Services team, they placed "conversation flags" and information posters at the entrance to Yahentamitsi. Students take a flag to their table and display it as they sit down indicating that they're open to being joined at their table for conversation. Dining continues to work with the DSAB to increase the use of the conversation flags and there are plans in the works to offer "language flags" to encourage students to start conversations with each other in languages other than English—a great way to foster inclusivity and practice different languages!

The project has moved from Yahentamitsi to 251 North and there have even been conversation-starter experiments in South Campus Dining Hall.

Strategic Plan Implementation Update

Now that the [DSA Strategic Plan is published](#), implementation is underway. Assistant Vice President Tom Flynn will lead a steering committee and six commitment committees to realize the five-year plan. The commitment committees will develop the roadmap, milestones, timeline, and deliverables for each strategic commitment. The steering committee, which is composed of our commitment committee co-chairs, will serve as the liaison between the committees and divisional leadership. They will identify cross-commitment efforts, recommend how to remove barriers to success and create opportunities to achieve our goals. We are in the process of scheduling initial meetings.

[DSA's DEI Strategic Plan is represented in our strategic commitment, "We Create Caring and Inclusive Communities." The Department of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion and the Student Affairs Diversity Initiative \(SADI\) have been hard at work building foundational action steps to align their work more closely with this commitment. To that end, SADI was restructured with two co-chairs, Nicole Mehta and Yvette Lerma Jones, and a subcommittee for each of this commitment's goals.](#)

Information about implementation will be added to the Strategic Plan website as it is available.

Warmest wishes, good colleagues,

Patricia A. Perillo, Ph.D.

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

Save the Dates

- Outstanding Student Employee Celebration - Wednesday, April 10, 4 p.m. to 6 p.m.
- [Memorial Chapel Listening Garden Dedication](#) - Thursday, April 18, 12 noon
- [Maryland Day](#) - Saturday, April 27

Deleted: The Department of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion and Student Affairs Diversity Initiative (SADI) have been hard at work building foundational action steps to align their work more closely with the division's [strategic commitment, "We Create Caring and Inclusive Communities.](#) To that end, SADI was restructured with two co-chairs, Nicole Mehta and Yvette Lerma Jones, and a subcommittee for each goal under this strategic commitment.