My name is Brian O’Connor and I am a member of Professional Council. I have been an employee at MSU for over 19 years, and my current position is Director of Procurement Services. My job provides me the opportunity to work on a wide variety of projects from the incredibly diverse areas that make up Montana State University. The mission of my office is ensuring both compliance and value in all university spending, but as a side benefit I get to learn more about all the amazing work that makes up the MSU experience. I often go home at night bragging about the cool stuff happening at our University, and am honored to play a small part in it.

PROFESSIONAL COUNCIL UPDATE:

Indigenous Peoples Day Proposal

At our February 24th meeting, both Professional Council and Staff Senate gathered for a presentation by Dr. Walter Fleming on a proposal to replace Columbus Day with Indigenous Peoples Day. President Cruzado has asked for both groups input on this proposal. Dr. Fleming’s presentation was very informative and Professional Council will be discussing further at our next meeting.

Communication: Fair Labor Standards Act and Job Categorization at MSU

By now many of you have heard about the Job Categorization Project taking place across the MUS system. A task force has been established at MSU and they will be working on this throughout the year. Human Resources has setup a website dedicated to help inform employees:

Link: Job Categorization Project

Spring Professional Council Social

Spring will soon be here and so will our annual spring gathering! This year's event will be on March 24 from 4:00 – 6:00 pm in the Leigh Lounge. Please join us to meet other professionals and share in some good food, drink and conversation. An email invitation went out last Wednesday, and we encourage you to RSVP here:

Link: RSVP
**DegreeWorks Luncheon**

Please join the Office of the Registrar, the Academic Advising Center, and the Center for Faculty Excellence for a luncheon and discussion on:
Using Degree Works Plans as Best Practice for Effective Advising
Tuesday, March 8, 2016, 11:45 – 1:00
SUB Ballrooms C & D
Presenter: Steve Holmgren

Link: RSVP

**Professional Development**

Betsy Webb, from the Office of Human Resources, has announced many opportunities for professional development for this spring semester. To register for PD&T offerings, visit HR Training Registration. You will need your GID (dash first) and MyInfo pin to register for each session.
The following classes are coming up in the next few months:

**March 3 – Facilitation Tips and Models, 1-3 pm, SUB 233**
Presenter: Betsy Webb
Capacity: 50
Join us for a 2-hour workshop on Group Facilitation. Skill building, facilitation tips and best practices will be shared, along with several models for group process.

**April 7 – ACIREMA, 1-3 pm, SUB 233**
Presenter: David DiMaria and the Office of International Programs staff and students
Capacity: 30
Offered for the first time last spring, ACIREMA is a simulation designed to sensitize MSU staff and faculty to the challenges that international students encounter in their quest for higher education in the US. The simulation exercise acquaints participants with the procedures students must follow from their initial contact with MSU to their arrival in Bozeman. A group discussion follows the exercise.

**Management Development Certificate:**

March 7 – MD701: Personality Inventories, SUB 233, 8-11:30 am, capacity 30, WAITLISTED
April 4 – MD801: Managing and Engaging a Diverse Workforce, SUB 233, 8-9:30am, capacity 50
MD901: Public Relations & the Media, SUB 233, 9:45 – 11:30 am, capacity 50

**Financial Development Certificate:**

March 29 – FD801: Asset Management, 9-11 am, SUB 235
April 13 – FD101: Budget Basics and MSU Funding Sources, 9-11 am, SUB 235
May 17 – FD601: Reconciliation, 11-1, SUB 235