Hello, my name is Amy Stix and I am Chair of the 2016-2017 Professional Council. I also serve as director of the Empower Program in the College of Engineering.

The Professional Council (PC) was established by MSU’s President in 1979 as a means of facilitating communication and cooperation among professionals, and communication with administration in the development of general decisions and policies which affect professional employees. The PC is not an advocacy group. The Professional Council is intended to promote collaborative efforts by professionals with others on campus in mutual efforts to effectively and efficiently carry out the land grant missions at Montana State University. For more information on the PC, please visit http://www.montana.edu/professionalcouncil/

One of the ways Professional Council provides information to you is through our PC committee representatives. Professional employees serve on most major committees at MSU and help represent viewpoints of professional employees on the committees. These representatives regularly share information with the PC regarding important committee activities and events on campus, which we will share with you through the monthly newsletter and the professional employee list-serve.

**Professional Council has several important announcements & opportunities to share with you this month:**

**Call for Nominations - Firefly Award**
We hope you will help honor professional excellence by nominating an individual for the annual Rufus T. Firefly Award of Excellence. The Firefly Award is presented to a professional employee who demonstrates tangible innovation, positive and broad impact on student experience, and/or leadership distinguished by role modeling in a professional capacity. **Deadline for nominations is FRIDAY, OCT 31 by 5pm.** To submit a nomination, visit https://www.montana.edu/provost/faculty/awards.html

**Changes to Fair Labor Standards Act**
As you are likely aware, earlier this year the Department of Labor issued new federal regulations that update the Fair Labor Standards Act (FLSA) regarding overtime hours, with the goal of ensuring fair compensation for U.S. workers across diverse employment sectors. The MSU Human Resources Department (HR) has been working since January to ensure compliance with the new requirements, scheduled to go into effect Dec. 1, 2016.

HR has communicated with Professional Council throughout the process and Professional Council will help disseminate information to professional employees as implementation information becomes available. **HR representatives will next update the Professional Council on October 12th from 3-4pm in Renne Library Room 39 (ITC Conference Room). All PC meetings are open.**

Information from this meeting will also be shared with professional employees in our next newsletter and through the professional employee list-serve. If you have any questions/concerns, please contact amy.stix@montana.edu
Join thousands of Montanans making our communities stronger by participating in the MSU Charitable Giving Drive, Oct. 17-28!
The Montana State University Charitable Giving Drive supports community non-profit organizations through a partnership with Montana Shares and the Greater Gallatin United Way. Campaign materials will arrive in MSU faculty and staff mailboxes soon, and we hope you will consider donating to one or more of the fantastic organizations listed in the information. All financial pledges go toward helping MT non-profits continue their vital work to support children and families, veterans, food security, education and arts programs, fish and wildlife, lost/abandoned pets---and many more important causes. Last year, MSU faculty, staff and students donated more than $17K to Montana Shares and Greater Gallatin United Way organizations. Strengthening our community, one donation at a time. Let's see if we can beat that record this year! **Beginning October 17th, pledge online by visiting:** [www.ipledgeonline.org/_msu](http://www.ipledgeonline.org/_msu)

For more info, contact: 994-7462

**Professional Development & Training Opportunities:**

**October 12:** Going Global: Intercultural Skills for Work and Play, 3-5 pm, Jabs Hall Room 315

**October 13:** Toastmasters presents *Face your Fear: Turn the Terror of Public Speaking Into Confidence*, 1-3 pm, SUB 233

**November 10:** Not In Our House: Empathy-building strategies to promote a more respectful, engaged classroom and community, 1-3 pm, Procrastinator Theater

**December 8:** Sustainability at MSU, 1-3 pm, SUB 233

For more details on these trainings, and to learn about HR’s Management Development Certificate Program offerings this year, visit [http://www.montana.edu/hr/development/](http://www.montana.edu/hr/development/)

We hope your fall semester is going well, and we look forward to hearing from you!

Best Wishes,

Amy Stix, Chair
Professional Council

**Professional Council Members:**

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
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<tr>
<td>James Tobin</td>
<td>Chair-Elect</td>
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<td>Jenny Lavey</td>
<td>Secretary</td>
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<tr>
<td>Gini Mohr</td>
<td>Treasurer</td>
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<td>Julie Clay</td>
<td>Logistics Coordinator</td>
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<td>Brad Eik</td>
<td>Membership Liaison</td>
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<td>Brian O’Connor</td>
<td>Archivist</td>
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<td>Brian Rossmann</td>
<td>Professional Development</td>
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<td>Pol Llovet</td>
<td>Website/Twitter Liaison</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sally O’Neill</td>
<td>Social Coordinator</td>
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**Comments/Suggestions:**

professionalcouncil@montana.edu