Autumn Greetings! I am honored to be serving as your 2017-2018 Professional Council Chair-Elect. We have a terrific crew of devoted Professional Council members that are here to represent you. Our diversity in work backgrounds creates a strong collaborative team representing the professions of marketing, communications, engineering, student residence life, education, project management and international studies.

I am the Membership and Events Manager at KUSM—MontanaPBS, where I work with an incredibly dedicated team of employees and students who share a passion for educational and inspiring public media that is accessible to all citizens across the state of Montana.

I am excited to be your liaison with MSU administration to bring your voice and concerns to many discussions over the next year.

The council is working to invite two professional development speakers to campus in the spring. Stay tuned for more announcements.

You are always welcome to contact me with questions at erika@montanapbs.org

Best wishes for a successful and vibrant autumn season!

Accreditation, Rufus T. Firefly Nominations and MSU’s 125th Anniversary, “Bobcat Bash”

The Professional Council met with Tami Eitle, Interim Assistant Provost, in October who provided an overview of the seven year accreditation process of MSU by the NW Commission of Colleges and Universities. The Professional Council was invited to speak directly with the Accreditors during their campus visit, October 16th—18th. Concerns about salaries, benefits and work load were discussed as well as the universities excellent recognition programs and the professional development opportunities that are provided across campus.

We encourage you to nominate an individual for the Rufus T. Firefly Award for excellence in innovative service. The award is open to ALL MSU professional employees who demonstrate tangible innovation, positive and broad impact on student experience, embody the mission of MSU/MAES/MES and leadership by role modeling in a professional capacity. Selection criteria is based on an individual’s excellence in the areas of innovation, sustainability, impact, distinction and alignment around MSU’s strategic plan. Deadline for submissions is: Thursday, November 9th at 5:00pm.

More information can be found at: https://www.montana.edu/provost/faculty/awards.html

During the October meeting we met with Toni Lee, Director of Conference and Event Services, who gave us an enthusiastic update on MSU’s 125th Anniversary taking place on Founder’s Day, February 16th, 2018. The Bobcat Birthday Bash main festivities will be February 16th - 17th on the main mall. A ferris wheel, fireworks, outdoor ice skating rink, hospitality tents, food trucks and a beer garden will be setup to celebrate the grand occasion. There will be many anniversary themed events throughout the year. More info can be found at: http://www.montana.edu/125/
November 7 - Management Development Certificate—MD301, Title IX, Sexual Harrassment, Public Employees and Employee Relations, 8:00AM—11:30AM

EEO information will be presented on Title IX, sexual harassment, discrimination and reporting requirements. The course will go over public information and employees as it relates to what is public and what is confidential, including discussions on FERPA, HIPAA and a brief employment law overview. Labor and employee relations such as union contracts, bargaining, and the status of non-union employees will also be covered.

November 30 – Building Emotional Intelligence: Strategies, Tips, and Tools for Raising Your EQ, 1-3 pm, SUB 233
Presenters: Julie Clay, COA, PMP and Dallas Dallman, MEd

Join us for this two-hour workshop where we will provide strategies, tips and tools for each of the four skills that Emotional Intelligence identifies: Self Awareness, Self-Management, Social Awareness, and Relationship Management. This workshop will be conducted in combination with group mini-exercises, personal reflective work, and large group discussion.

January 31, February 7, 21, & 28, 8:30AM—12:30PM – Crucial Conversations training course (16 hours of training)
Offered through PD&T, housed in the Office of Human Resources

Crucial Conversations training can improve the safety, reliability, courtesy and competence of the employees working for our university. Through Crucial Conversations, we learn to see issues through the lens of the stakeholder, make it safe to dialogue on important issues, work more effectively as committed team members, and problem-solve in ways that reduce barriers. Crucial Conversations can help team members learn to use their voices to discuss risky topics, have their opinions heard, participate in decision-making, and address challenging situations in the office. Organizations around the world have used Crucial Conversations Training to improve results in productivity, quality, team work, relationships, performance and efficiency.

TO REGISTER, VISIT: http://www.montana.edu/hr/development/

Useful Resources/Websites

University Council —http://www.montana.edu/universitycouncil/
The University Council’s mission is to ensure that the institutional policies and procedures support the university's strategic plan and land grant mission. The council establishes and maintains reciprocal communication with representatives from the constituent groups on the Council regarding programs, policies and procedures that have campus wide impact.

Space Management Committee —http://www.montana.edu/smc/index.html
Develop policies and plans in alignment with the University Strategic Plan and institutional priorities for allocations, conversions and growth; report on assignments and utilization of spaces; make recommendations to the President regarding university space.

Outreach & Engagement Council —http://www.montana.edu/outreachengagementcouncil/
The Outreach & Engagement Council’s mission is to strategically champion engagement at MSU through outreach, leadership, and service to fulfill the land-grant mission. The council guides outreach, engagement, and leadership at MSU by collaborating with off-campus communities and other external partners, leveraging resources and pursuing extramural funding.