Midwinter greetings, fellow MSU Professionals! My name is Jenny Lavey and I’m in my first of three years serving on the MSU Professional Council. Last year, my supervisor suggested I get more involved with the university. The Professional Council has been a wonderful means to do so, as council members and conversation represent the wonderfully diverse and important role of all MSU employees, both on- and off campus. When I’m not taking meeting minutes for Professional Council, I work on campus as the Communications Director for the College of Agriculture and Montana Agricultural Experiment Station, where I get to tout the many land-grant accomplishments of one of MSU’s cornerstone colleges. Do be sure to attend the Professional Council Spring Social on Thursday, March 23rd and watch for a professional development opportunity sponsored by the council in May. In the meantime, drop by any of our bimonthly meetings listed on MSU Today, or visit our website. We value you and appreciate your work! - Jenny Lavey

Professional Council Spring Social

Who doesn’t appreciate hosted drinks and eats and a chance to meet and connect with fellow MSU professional employees? Mark your calendar for the afternoon of March 23rd from 4 p.m. – 6 p.m., when the MSU Professional Council will host their annual Spring Social in the Leigh Lounge. All MSU professional employees are encouraged to attend! Please take a moment and RSVP.

New MSU Staff Scholarship Program

Thanks to the hard work and vision from the MSU Staff Senate, a new MSU Staff Scholarship Program is now available to MSU classified and professional employees and their dependents. The scholarship is open to MSU Bozeman staff employees, continuing education students, transfer students, graduate students, and incoming freshman. Applications are accepted from February 15, 2017, through March 30th, 2017. Awards typically range between $250 and $1,000 and may be used for tuition, fees, and books. Tuition Waiver or Dependent Tuition Waiver candidates may apply as well. Awards are based on academic records and information provided in a one-page biographical statement. This may include community and/or campus involvement, educational background, and future plans after completing college.
MSU Trademark Policy Update

You may have heard that MSU is considering a change to its trademark policy regarding alcoholic beverages. MSU’s current policy prohibits the use of its trademarked logos to promote weapons, tobacco, recreational drugs, or alcohol. With the University’s 125th anniversary celebration planned next year, the idea of creating a celebratory craft beer with a special 125th anniversary logo has come up.

Currently, the University is prohibited from having conversations with craft brewing industry representatives (or reps. from any alcoholic beverage industry) regarding a trademarked beverage. A change to current policy would allow MSU to have these conversations and potentially trademark an alcoholic beverage. The University Council is due to vote on the proposed policy change in the coming months and the Chair of Professional Council is a voting member of this body. **We would like to hear from you!** If you have questions/concerns regarding the proposed change, or if you would like to voice your opinion on what action the Professional Council Chair should take, email ProfessionalCouncil@montana.edu. For background, Read the Bozeman Daily Chronicle 2/1/17 article.

Apply for an Outreach and Engagement Seed Grant!

MSU’s Outreach and Engagement Council invites proposals for fiscal year 2018 seed grant funds. Funding for this program is provided by the MSU Office of the President to promote outreach and engagement activities that involve faculty, students, and staff in partnership with local/regional constituents to address the needs of citizens in Montana and beyond. Application deadline is 5pm, March 10th.

Call for Employee Topics for Professional Council Appointment with the President

On March 8th, Professional Council Chair Amy Stix and Chair-Elect James Tobin will meet with President Cruzado to update her on Professional Council activities, and to hear how the Council can support the President’s work and initiatives. If you have discussion topics and/or concerns you would like us to share with President Cruzado, please email ProfessionalCouncil@montana.edu.
Professional Development Opportunities

**March 9th** – *Energy and Resource Use at MSU - A 300 Million Year Journey, 1-3 pm, SUB 233*

- Presenter: Duke Elliott, Resource Conservation Specialist at MSU
- Capacity: 50
- Join us for an exciting look at energy and resources starting 300 million years ago and up to the present day. See and understand the invisible pathways of energy. You’ll never turn on a light switch again without knowing where the energy came and why it matters. Learn ways you can have a positive impact while saving money and resources at work and at home.

- **May 11th** – *Feedback, 1-3 pm, SUB 233*
- Presenter: Jocelyn Larson, Recreational Sports and Fitness
- Capacity: 50
- Feedback never seems to come at the right time or in the right form for our needs - come to this workshop to understand your role in receiving feedback and learn tools to make receiving feedback more effective.

**March 25th - Gender Equality Conference**

- On March 25th from 9am - 3pm, the Leadership Institute is hosting a gender equality conference and they want your voice in the room! Entitled *Gender Equality and YOU: A Conference to Create, Foster, and Catalyze*, the focus of the day will be to celebrate gender equality and focus on how we can promote gender equity at MSU and in the Bozeman community. [Register here.](#)

**Upcoming Professional Council Speakers**

**March 8 - Matt Caries, Dean of Students**

_Matt will be joining us to provide an update from the Dean of Student’s Office._

**March 29 - Sara King, Human Resources**

_Sara will be joining us to provide an update on the staff reclassification process._

*Website:* www.montana.edu/professionalcouncil/

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