The Staff Senate is currently holding elections for Senators. The Staff Senate is proportionately represented by each of the staff HR classifications and seats are filled based on vacancies within the HR classifications. We encourage staff in all classifications to participate in the election process. New senators will be named in early April and their terms will begin in July. Voting is now open and will continue through March 31.

Vote here for your advocates!

Service to the community has been a priority at WCU since the university’s earliest days as a teaching school. Today, through individual service and events like the Tuck River Cleanup, Mountain Heritage Day, and our MLK Days of Service, students, faculty, and staff contribute tens of thousands of hours to the community each year. This commitment to service has not gone unnoticed: the university was chosen to receive the 2015 Community Engagement Classification from the Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching, and we have been included on the President’s Higher Education Community Service Honor Roll for seven consecutive years.

Our service opportunities aren’t just for students. In fact, you can do community service as part of your job at WCU! All full-time EPA and SPA employees are eligible for 24 hours of Community Service Leave per calendar year. Through this program, staff can make a difference in the community by sharing their skills with local schools and non-profits.

If you’re interested in getting involved, you can choose from many options: we have partnerships with over 120 non-profit agencies around the region (you can see a complete list here). These groups focus on a variety of issues, including education, the environment, hunger, and housing, and they all welcome staff volunteers. Popular service sites include:

- The Cullowhee Community Garden is an organic garden that provides space for community members to grow food, and also provides fresh produce to local soup kitchens and food pantries. Volunteers can help with planting, weeding, mulching, and harvesting. Please contact Adam Bigelow at 828.226.0398 or thecullowheecommunitygarden@gmail.com for more information.

- Catman2 is Cullowhee’s cats-only no-kill shelter, and saves hundreds of cats each year. Volunteers help with feeding, clean-up, and playing with the cats. For more information or to volunteer, please contact Kaleb Lynch at 828.293.0892 or genderoutlawkxl@yahoo.com.
It's never too early to start thinking about the holidays! All proceeds from ornament sales go towards the Staff Senate Scholarship. Ornaments may be purchased in person at the Bookstore, at any home football game, and select events around campus. Talk to your local Senator for more information, or visit the Staff Senate Scholarship page.

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**STAFF SENATE SCHOLARSHIP ORNAMENTS (ALREADY/STILL) ON-SALE**

The Community Table is Sylva’s soup kitchen and food pantry. It provides meals in a friendly environment for low-income local residents. Volunteers help with cleaning and meal prep in the morning, and with serving and clean-up in the afternoon. For more information or to volunteer, please contact Gary Wood at 828.586.6782 or CTofJackson@gmail.com.

Habitat for Humanity works with volunteers to build decent, affordable housing for low-income community members. Volunteers help with every stage of the construction process—from roofing to painting. No experience is necessary, and an expert is always on hand to lead the projects. Volunteers can also work at the group’s thrift store. For more information or to volunteer, please call 828.369.3716 or email hfhmc@dnet.net.

Skyland Care Center is a nursing home that provides rehabilitative services, long-term care, and an Alzheimer’s care clinic. Volunteers visit with residents, help with activities like arts and crafts, or work with Alzheimer’s patients. For more information or to volunteer, please contact Judy Brooks at 828.586.8935 or 828.586.8936.

The Center for Service Learning also sponsors days of service throughout the year. These large-scale, one-day service opportunities provide an easy way to get involved. You can choose from several different projects, and we take care of all the logistics. Our next day of service is on March 28, and will include projects that benefit REACH of Macon County, Stop Hunger Now, Habitat for Humanity, and more. To see information about this event and other volunteer projects, check out our calendar of service opportunities, or follow us on Facebook.

If you have questions about service opportunities, the WCU Center for Service Learning can help. You can call x7184, email servicelearning@wcu.edu, or visit us in Belk 273. We hope you will consider getting involved in the community and supporting WCU’s mission as an engaged university!

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**PROJECT UPDATES**

The following construction projects are underway:
- HFR 460..........................................................Completed
- Hinds UC – Catamount Clothing and Gifts area renovation ..On-going
- Killian 219/221 ..............................................On-going
- Lighting replacement project ..........On-going, Completion scheduled for June 2015
- Wireless connectivity upgrade.........On-going

The following projects are in design:
- Brown renovation
- Mixed-use development

Summer construction:
- Coulter Building re-roofing

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**SCHOLARSHIP DONATIONS**

Click [here](#) to donate to the scholarship!

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**COME TO A MEETING!**

Staff Senate meets the second Wednesday of each month at 8:30 a.m. in the UC Cardinal Room. Meetings are open to all interested SPA/EPA staff. Please come see what we are doing, and get involved if you are interested.

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**MISSED A MEETING?**

Check out the minutes from any previous Staff Senate meeting by visiting our website, [staffsenate.wcu.edu](http://staffsenate.wcu.edu).

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**WHEE FOR LIFE**

Visit [wheeforlife.wcu.edu](http://wheeforlife.wcu.edu) for health and wellness events, advice and resources.

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**CONTACT US!**

If you have an article, announcement or suggestion relating to this newsletter, contact [staffsenate@wcu.edu](mailto:staffsenate@wcu.edu) to have it included.