Did you know that you can sign up for payroll deductions to support your favorite charity? The North Carolina State Employees Combined Campaign makes it easy to support local, regional, & national nonprofits. Each fall, WCU employees have the opportunity to make financial contributions to charities via payroll deduction, or with cash, check, or credit card. Simply fill out a pledge form with the charities you would like to support, the amount that you wish to donate, and how you would like to contribute. You can find a guide to SECC charities and a pledge form here.

Jackson County charities in this year’s list include the Good Samaritan Clinic, Mountain Projects/Jackson Neighbors in Need, the American Red Cross of WNC, Mountain Mediation Services, and the Friends of the Mountains-to-Sea Trail. There are hundreds of additional groups to choose from, including organizations that focus on the arts, education, environmental conservation, health care, hunger & housing, youth development, and much more.

Consider helping our community by donating during the Combined Campaign. Learn more at ncsecc.org.
COLLABORATE: A SERIES OF CAMPUS CONVERSATIONS

A series of conversations to solicit input and ideas from the campus community on four issues – increasing diversity on campus, preparing for a comprehensive fundraising campaign to boost scholarship dollars, enhancing the total student experience, and investing in our people – is scheduled through the spring semester. All faculty and staff are encouraged to participate as fully as they can in these important conversations.

Registration is on a rolling first-come, first-served basis and as long as a session is not full, you can register at any time. In the event that every session for a topic fills up, we will add additional sessions in the spring semester. An additional session is being planned for Biltmore Park. Those interested in submitting an idea or comment online will be able to do so. To register for a session or submit an online comment please visit the Collaborate website at wcu.edu/collaborate/.

EMPLOYEE APPRECIATION DAY AWARD WINNERS

Many thanks to all who attended Employee Appreciation Day and stopped by our Staff Senate table! Thanks to your generosity, we raised $160 for the Staff Senate Scholarship as well as contributed dozens of bags of nonperishable food items to the Community Table in Sylva. Please see below for the list of community donated prizes and our staff winners (all winners have received a phone call from Annette Parris to pick up their prizes. If you have not received your prize, please contact Annette)

- Gift certificate for Mani/pedi/nails donated by Teri Wreyford at Studioe ($40 value) — Emily Jaynes
- Gift certificate from Wilson Family Chiropractic for a 60 minute massage — Fred Wright (Facilities Management)
- $15 Gift certificate from Kosta’s Family Restaurant — Amy Rose (Communications Sciences & Disorders)
- Gift certificate for adult cut/style donated by Evon Estes at Studioe — Lisa Lefler (Health and Human Services)
- “Rock your hair” products donated by Studio 127 Salon — Sarah Steiner (Hunter Library)
- $20 Gift certificate from the Tonic Craft Beer Market — James Thomas (Residential Living)
- Pampered Chef Round covered baker donated by Annette Parris — Traci Settlemyre (Paw Print)
- 2 for 1 Deal from Guadalupe Cafe — Nancy Brown (Controllers Office)
- $25 Towards a $85 purchase at Saints European/Shehnaz Adam — Lois Stilles (Educational Office)
- $25 Towards a $85 purchase at Saints European/Shehnaz Adam — Robin Brooks (Financial Services)
- Paws Bobble-head Donated by WCU Athletics — Dawne Coward (Administration and Finance)
- Large T-shirt from the WCU bookstore — T’Shana McClain (Social Work)
- Medium T-shirt from the WCU bookstore — Mattie Davenport (Writing and Learning Commons)
- “WCU” logo portable charger donated by the Coulter Faculty Commons — Betty Hopkins (Residential Living)
- Two tickets for the Presbyterian vs. WCU football game, donated by the Football Program — Nicholas Passalacqua (Anthropology & Sociology)

SCHOLARSHIP DONATIONS

Click HERE to donate to the scholarship!

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.

MISSED A MEETING?

Check out the minutes from any previous Staff Senate meeting by visiting our website, staffsenate.wcu.edu.

WHEE FOR LIFE

Visit wheeforlife.wcu.edu for health and wellness events, advice and resources.
MEET YOUR DIRECTOR OF EMPLOYEE RELATIONS, TRAINING, AND DEVELOPMENT – RUSTY MARTS

Previous Staff Senate Survey results indicated the need for a new position dedicated to employee relations, training, and development. Please keep an eye out this month for emails about our 2015 Staff Senate Survey. Changes like this one show that the results of this survey are taken seriously and can truly affect change here at WCU!

In a recent conversation, we were able to discuss the status of a new position at the university, the director of employee relations, training and development, with Rusty Marts, who was selected for that position in February of 2014.

Regarding the employee relations portion of his responsibilities, Marts said, “Employee relations allows me to utilize a number of skills, including consultation, problem solving, coaching and counseling. I have been very fortunate to develop rapport across campus and am afforded the opportunity to assist employees and managers to resolve issues in a proactive manner. We have a number of resources that support our employee relations program, including ComPsych, our employee assistance program, which has shown robust utilization since its inception – both with personal and confidential counseling and with online resources.”

Regarding training and development, he said, “We are in the process of developing offerings in training and development that will support success for management, faculty and staff. One of those offerings, ‘Seven Habits of Highly Effective People,’ has already been rolled out and has been very well received. A collaborative committee consisting of members across campus has been formed and is assisting in planning of further offerings. We are also reaching out to our sister institutions, and a training and development consortium was formed this year that includes all the University of North Carolina system institutions. We meet regularly by teleconference and will be meeting face-to-face in July. The purpose of this consortium is to share best practices and professional development trends. We are very pleased to be a part of this system-wide collaboration and look forward to the mutual benefit this will provide to all institutions.”

CONTACT US!

If you have an article, announcement or suggestion relating to this newsletter, contact staffsenate@wcu.edu to have it included.

DISCOUNTS FOR STAFF

Did you know that several area businesses offer special discounts for WCU employees? We’re compiling a list of discounts, a few of which are listed below. If you know of an area business that offers a discount for WCU employees, send us an email (staffsenate@wcu.edu) and we’ll be sure to add the information to our list. You may want to call the business prior to your visit to verify that the discount still applies. If you are aware that any of these discounts are not longer available, please let us know so we can correct the list.

Restaurants in Sylva offering a discount:

**Bojangles**, 828.586.6529  
Discount: 10% (show Cat Card)

**Dairy Queen**, 828.586.5327  
Discount: 10% (show Cat Card)

**Dunkin Donuts**, 828.586.3355  
Discount: 10% (show Cat Card)

**Ryan’s**, 828.631.2520  
Discount: for dinertime only, $9 incl. drink, buffet and tax (show Cat Card)

**Tuck’s Tap and Grille**, 828.293.5400  
Discount: excludes alcohol, 10% (show Cat Card)

**Waffle House**, 828.631.1525  
Discount: 10% (show Cat Card when ordering)

**Zaxby’s**, 828.631.3100  
Discount: Tuesdays all day, 25% (show Cat Card)

To view additional discounts, visit staffsenate.wcu.edu