

News from Staff Council

March 2021

Culture of Care: UMKC Staff Dialogue Sessions

As we seek to build an authentic Culture of Care, UMKC's Staff Council would like to invite you to participate in the upcoming Staff Dialogue Sessions from March 23-26. The sessions are designed for staff to meet others across campus and identify collective needs in a small-group environment. Co-facilitated by UMKC staff, these sessions are meant to be interactive and create long-term solutions in a safe space.



Tuesday, March 23 | 2-3 p.m.

Wednesday, March 24 | 10-11 a.m.

Thursday, March 25 | 4-5 p.m.

Friday, March 26 | 12-1 p.m.

Questions for discussion include:

1. How can we create a "Culture of Care" among staff?
2. How are you doing with any changes to your current work situation?
3. In what ways are you being supported in your professional growth?
4. What staff initiatives are most meaningful to you? What would you like to see?

Please [register](#) for one of the UMKC Staff Dialogue Sessions. After registering, you will receive a Zoom link to access your session.

[Register here](#)

Free pet tips + prizes on a Friday!

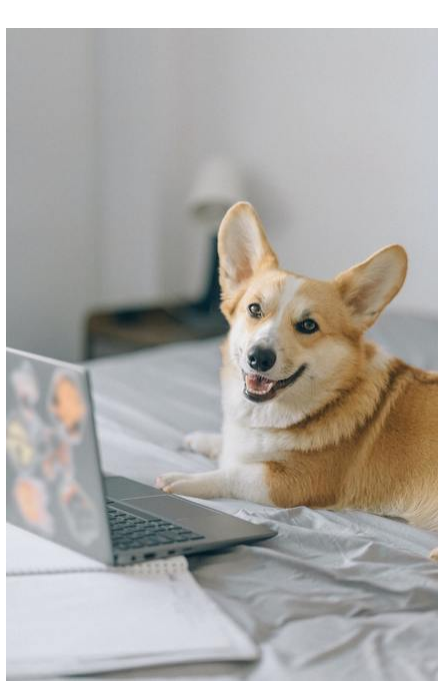
Please join the the Staff Council Engagement and Events Committees for an hour of helpful training hints from nationally renowned dog trainer GERALYNN CADA of SmarterPaw, LLC! And, of course, be ready to show off your fur baby if you can!

Friday, March 26

12 p.m

[Zoom link](#)

There will be a fabulous prize give-away at the end of the program (\$50 value) and you must be present to win! We ask that you send Julie Smith (jksmith@umkc.edu) your questions in advance so we can have answers ready and gear the program towards those concerns.



[March 26 Zoom link](#)



Sign up for Staff Community Groups!

During this time more than ever, we find ourselves yearning for opportunities to connect with others through community. So we decided to create our own communities! Whether you're interested in participating in a group or leading one, there's a little something for everyone.

Topics include:

- Arts and culture
- Book clubs
- Crafts and DIY
- Gardening
- Parents and support systems
- Wellness
- Create your own!

In an effort to truly build community, facilitators and participants commit to holding their community groups for a minimum of two months. If you have any questions or would like to sign up to lead a group not already listed, contact the Outreach Committee co-chairs, Sandra Smith (smithsandraa@umkc.edu) or Seth Tracy (tracys@umkc.edu).

A reinvisioned Staff Picnic

Hi UMKC staff! We miss you! Remember the Staff Picnic? For safety's sake, we would like to offer an alternative this year: a take-and-go picnic.

What does this mean? We would offer you a choice of pre-packaged lunch (chips, cookie and sandwich; both veggie and meat options will be offered) and you pick up the lunch on May 19th from 11a.m. to noon. You would then take the lunch back to your office or home.

Please [fill out this survey](#) by **March 20** to help us gauge interest in this take-and-go option. It will take less than a minute of your time! Thank you!



[Take the Staff Picnic survey](#)

Staff Spotlight



Michelle Heiman

Senior Student Support Specialist, School of Graduate Studies

Why do you choose to work at UMKC?

I've loved UMKC since I started attending in 2007. I earned a double-major bachelor's degree in three years, changed master's programs three times and finally finished that in 2016, and am now active in the Ed.D. program. It just made sense to start working where I was already spending a lot of time, and I've been able to grow in this position into a decent student affairs professional.

Who is one person who has had a significant impact on you and why?

I have a little sister with the Big Brothers Big Sisters program. Her name is Kat, and she's had more of an impact on me than she'll ever know. We met when she was a junior in high school a few years ago, and even then this young woman knew exactly who she was and refused to be ashamed of any of her identities. She motivates me to help make this world a better place — a place where all young women can be confident in who they are and not afraid to let the world see them.

What's your favorite hobby?

Outside of work, my main hobby is billiards. This semester, along with 40 hours a week of work and two online classes, I'm also playing on five local billiards teams and in various tournaments. I've been playing for about three and a half years, and it's allowed me to build a second family of the pool player community while learning a new set of skills.

REMINDERS

Last call for Staff Council Spring 2021 scholarship applications!

[Apply online](#) for the scholarship by March 31st! The scholarship is open to all full time staff taking classes at UMKC. Don't wait — apply today!

EVENTS

March 31 – Last day to donate to the [Summit League Food Fight Challenge](#), benefiting the Kangaroo Pantry.

May 21 – Staff Council Professional Development [Conference](#).

[Contact us](#)



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