

## ***Staff Council: Advocating for You***

Over the past year Staff Council at the University of Colorado Denver | Anschutz Medical Campus set out to increase the awareness and understanding of who they are and what they do. If participation in the 2016 elections is any indication, this goal was successfully accomplished. The elections held in April contained 53 nominations for 25 available Staff Council positions.

Staff Council currently has 35 members from the CU Denver and Anschutz Medical Campuses and the Denver South and Fort Logan locations. These members represent classified staff, university staff and professional research assistants from a number of academic and administrative units across the institution. The [Staff Council website](#) lists the current roster of members.

Staff Council is here to advocate for ***you*** by working collaboratively with the university on strategic planning, policy development, recruitment and retention and staff recognition. Other Staff Council initiatives include professional development events, volunteer experiences and networking opportunities.

Blake Humphrey, Staff Council Chair, has been the IT Manager for the Physical Therapy Program at the CU School of Medicine since 2011. As the IT Manager, Humphrey's goal is to improve processes and 'Teach the Teacher' in the use of technology in educational delivery. He manages computers and access for 210 students and the faculty and staff who educate and support them. Humphrey also works with the Rehabilitation Sciences PhD Program and the Pediatric Physical Therapy Residency Programs. His professional background includes time spent at University of Colorado Hospital, University Physicians, Inc. and as a private IT Contractor. He earned a BS in Informational Technology from Colorado Technical University and has started a master's degree.

This is Humphrey's second year on Staff Council, becoming Chair this year. He joined Staff Council with a desire to help fellow Staff and to learn more about the governance structure in place at the University of Colorado. Humphrey says, "With Shared Governance adopted by the Board of Regents and University of Colorado President, it is important for staff to have a unified voice on issues that globally and locally affect our campuses and employment. Through our use of Shared Governance and Staff Council representatives, staff are able to hear about issues and voice concerns to leadership at the local, campus and systemwide levels."

Humphrey is most proud of helping to recruit strong members to Staff Council. These members are committed to represent staff interests, offer interesting professional development opportunities and engage the campus community in volunteer opportunities. He is excited about strengthening Staff Council's presence on both campuses.

You may be asking yourself, "How can I get involved?" The best and most thorough resource is the [Staff Council's website](#). Here you will find all meeting dates, lectures, events and volunteer activities they sponsor. If you receive academic announcements on your campus, you will see in

your email information about upcoming lectures for professional and personal development, staff appreciation events on your campus and volunteer activities.

This summer, Staff Council hosted a “Holiday Budgeting” workshop and a “Mindfulness: A Key to Success and Wellbeing in the Workplace” presentation on each campus. Staff Council also participated in Bike to Work Day on the CU Denver and Anschutz Medical campuses and the turnout was a record high! The annual campus Block Parties were held this Fall and Staff Council was there with giveaways, playing games and getting to know you.

Staff Council also sponsors the [Employee of the Month Award](#). Staff Council initiated this award in 1975 to honor University of Colorado employees who deserve special recognition for the outstanding jobs they do. You may nominate any classified, university or professional research staff member on the University of Colorado payroll. Do you know a co-worker who exemplifies outstanding work and service and is worthy of this award? [Go to this link, and nominate them!](#)

Staff Council conducts an annual nomination process for potential new members. This takes place in February of each year. Candidates are nominated – you can nominate yourself or have a co-worker nominate you – then all staff are asked to vote for their preferred candidates. New members start Staff Council activities in June at an annual retreat.

Be on the lookout for volunteer opportunities later this fall as Staff Council doesn’t just serve staff but also strives to serve our communities – and you can join the team! The monthly Staff Council meetings are open for anyone to attend. They meet every second Tuesday of the month from 1-3 p.m. alternating between the CU Anschutz and CU Denver campuses.

If you have more questions or a concern you wish to talk to Staff Council about, please don’t hesitate to contact [Staff.Council@ucdenver.edu](mailto:Staff.Council@ucdenver.edu). They are here to serve you!