Northwest Region Touchpoint
February 29, 2016

Campus Campaign Kickoff . . .

Campus Campaign 2016 starts March 1 and will run through Saturday, April 30. Help us exceed last year’s results of 38% and reach 45% participation this year. Every gift counts, no matter the size or destination.
Happy March birthdays …

- March 17  Jenny Morlock – Program Assistant, Wood County
- March 22  Kris Simpson – Program Assistant, Huron County
- March 23  Beth Brown – Office Assistant, Richland County

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Feedback conversations can be intimidating, but this two hour in-person workshop can help managers learn to deliver feedback with greater confidence and success. You will leave the workshop with a set of feedback skills you can directly apply. Register in BuckeyeLearn for the Feedback Skills workshop on Friday (2/26) from 9-11 a.m. at the Office of Human Resources, 1590 N. High Street.

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This two-hour in-person workshop provides tools and practice to help increase skills and comfort in engaging in difficult conversations. Learn how to prepare in advance, start the conversation effectively, and maintain a productive environment. It also covers how to handle conversations that become difficult in the moment and how to anticipate and respond to other’s reactions. Register in BuckeyeLearn for this workshop on Friday (March 4) from 9-11 a.m. at the Office of Human Resources, 1590 N. High Street.

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Counselor College (Source: Tracy Winters) . . .

If anyone missed the MXC training and still needs to send counselors somewhere for training, it’s not too late to register for the Counselor College being held at Canter’s Cave 4-H Camp on March 19-20.

- Cover Letter
- Registration and accompanying documents

For more information contact:
- Tracy Winters (Gallia County) at winters.5@osu.edu
- Rachael Fraley (Lawrence County) at fraley.171@osu.edu
Hold the Date (Source: Bruce Clevenger)

What: 2016 NW Region Spring Conference  
When: April 28, 2016  
Where: Camp Perry, Ottawa County  
Who: All OSUE Staff  

Confirmed Guest  
and Feature: Dr. Roger Rennekamp, Associate Dean and Director, OSU Extension

NAE4-HA Awards Deadline (Source: Christy Millhouse)

All award entries MUST be completed online utilizing the online NAE4-HA awards system by March 1. Enter the system via the link at https://form.jotform.com/nae4ha/state-selection. Members will select their state and then proceed to their desired award applications. You will be walked step by step through the application process. Complete the necessary requirements and submit. Please reference the score sheet of the award category you are applying in for specific award criteria and submission requirements.

For help or questions about anything awards related, please ask and if I do not have the answer. I will find out for you. My email is millhouse.10@osu.edu

Service Award Winners – I will submit your information for you. Please send this to me by February 26. I will need the following information:

- Award Nominee (exactly as you wish to have it on the award)  
- Service Award (just to make sure I have it correct)  
- Title  
- Award Nominee Mailing Address  
- City  
- State  
- Zip  
- Telephone (Office)  
- Email  
- NAE4-HA Region  
- 50 word bio that will be printed in the awards program  
- A digital photo of the nominee (head and shoulders)
New OSU CARES Website Launched (Source: Karen Bruns and Terri Fisher) . . .

We are pleased to announce the launch of the newly redesigned OSU CARES website! The address remains the same at http://osucares.osu.edu. Our goal with the redesign of our site is to bring it up to the new branding standards and to make it more easily navigable and accessible. A new feature that will be especially useful is our Partnerships page, where both OSU Extension personnel and OSU colleagues can go as a starting place when looking to build partnerships across campus to expand engagement with communities around Ohio.

We encourage you to visit our new site today, and hope you find that it has a fresh look, is easy to use and is informative. If you experience any problems using the new website or if you have any questions or feedback, please contact us at osucares@osu.edu.

Flexible Spending Account Blackout Period March 14-22, 2016 . . .

Ohio State's Flexible Spending Account (FSA) vendor, TASC, will transition to a new system platform during March 2016. The transition will include a short blackout period affecting claims processing for faculty and staff with Health Care and Dependent Care FSA accounts.

During the blackout period, March 14-22, 2016, faculty and staff cannot submit claims for reimbursement, use their Health Care Flex Cards or use their FSA accounts online.

Should participants incur eligible expenses during the blackout period, faculty and staff should pay for the expenses and submit a claim after March 22 to be reimbursed after the transition period.

As of March 23, 2016, all current FSA participant information will be transferred to TASC’s new system. OHR will send a direct email and a postcard to all Health Care FSA and Dependent Care FSA participants in early March regarding this transition.
The Office of Human Resources is hosting retirement education seminars during the month of March for members of the Ohio Public Employees Retirement System (OPERS).

**Education Today for Retirement Tomorrow** is for OPERS members who are eligible to retire after January 7, 2018 (Groups B and C). This seminar provides tips on preparing for retirement and reviews key decisions dates leading up to retirement. Seminars are held:

- Thursday, March 3, 2016, 10-11 a.m. - Ross Heart Hospital Auditorium (H1213)
- Thursday, March 17, 2016, 10-11 a.m. - Scott Laboratory E100

**Ready to Retire Pension and Health Care** is for OPERS members who are eligible to retire on or before January 7, 2018 (Group A). During this seminar, OPERS members will learn about important pension and health care changes that will impact their retirement. Participants will learn how to apply for retirement, calculate their monthly OPERS payment and determine if they are eligible for health care. We will also cover upcoming changes to the OPERS Health Care Plan and the impact to their retirement decisions. Seminars are held:

- Thursday, March 3, 2016, 1-3 p.m. - Ross Heart Hospital Auditorium (H1213)
- Thursday, March 17, 2016, 1-3 p.m. - Scott Laboratory E100

To register or for more information, visit [go.osu.edu/BuckeyeLearn](http://go.osu.edu/BuckeyeLearn).

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**Ed Tech Information . . .**

**Coffee Break**
Join the Ed Techs this Friday, March 4 at 10 a.m. for their monthly Coffee Break with an Ed Tech. They’ll be discussing **tips and tricks for using Carmen Connect**. They’ll also have time to answer all your ed tech questions. Join the conversation at [https://carmenconnect.osu.edu/edtechcoffeebreak/](https://carmenconnect.osu.edu/edtechcoffeebreak/)

**Request an Ed Tech Workshop**
Interested in learning more about an Ed Tech topic but not sure where to start? Consider requesting one of their workshops for your team or office. The Ed Tech Unit offers workshops in the following content areas:

- Video creation
- eNewsletter creation
- Live Streaming
- Blogging Best Practices
- Social Media Basics
- Social Media Strategy
- Online Course Design for Formal Learning
- Environments

To learn more or to request a workshop, visit the Request a Workshop page on the Ed Tech Blog ([http://u.osu.edu/extensionedtech/](http://u.osu.edu/extensionedtech/)). Please note that depending on your workshop request, minimum participant requirements may apply. Contact Jamie Seger ([seger.23@osu.edu](mailto:seger.23@osu.edu)) or Danae Wolfe ([wolfe.540@osu.edu](mailto:wolfe.540@osu.edu)) for more information.

**NOTE:** Danae Wolfe, Ed Tech, will be making two presentations on eNewsletter Creation and Social Media Content Strategy at the Region Support Staff In-Service on April 28.