Headline: DDAR Staff Support Committee Continues to Provide Services and Support – Summer 2020

The DDAR Staff Support believes that its mission to support all of its members and to provide them with ongoing learning opportunities is extremely important. During this time of upheaval, stress and constant change, we have made it our goal to be a source of continuity and community.

Our most recent professional development event, "The Color Code", was presented by Una Martone. In two separate sessions, many of our colleagues came together to hear Una describe the personality traits and work styles of blues, yellows, whites and reds – the four possible colors you could be. Each participant was provided with a link to the Color Code test and learned their "color" beforehand. Then we joined Una for a discussion of what it means to be each of these colors, and how a better understanding of colleagues' personalities and work styles could be attained through this program. It was a lot of fun to discover what color you are and to compare notes with fellow staff members. We gained insight into what makes some of our colleagues' tick, and even learned some things about ourselves.

Our very popular Morning Breaks continue on a bi-weekly basis. All support staff are invited to join in an informal discussion about a variety of topics. These chat sessions are moderated by members of the Staff Support Committee and are meant to provide a supportive environment where group members can ask questions, receive answers, air concerns and feel connected. We will be continuing this series throughout the coming months.

Shortly after the release of SIMBA, our committee provided two information sessions with our Financial Officer, Chris Spearly. During these sessions Chris provided updates and clarifications about the new financial system and answered staff questions. The DDAR Staff Support committee also plans to continue to provide future professional development opportunities about SIMBA. We understand that the new finance system is an integral part of many of our colleagues' roles and hope to help support them in this new endeavor.

This fall we'll be providing more opportunities for professional development through virtual training events. With financial support and encouragement from our VP, Rich Bundy, we hope to find a dynamic speaker who can work with us to provide an interesting, educational and enjoyable event. We'll be sending out more details on this soon.

In the meantime, please remember to check out our new and improved website https://ddarstaffsupport.psu.edu/. Thanks to our committee member, Tammy Kurtz from Information Systems, our site is now more inline with the Penn State brand and even easier to navigate!

As always, if you have questions or concerns please add them to our website forum. We'll try to get them answered asap. If you need to chat with someone, you can always contact any of our board members. We look forward to seeing all of you soon, virtually or, if we're really lucky, in person. Enjoy the rest of your summer!