

Thank you to everyone in DDAR for your ongoing support of the DDAR Staff Support Committee! We welcome you to our final Launchpad article for 2020.

We presented an amazing selection of professional development opportunities throughout October and November.

On October 7, the SIMBA team members from Procurement presented a basic overview of the Shop OnLion system via Zoom. They did walk-throughs of some of the most utilized processes in Shop OnLion and answered a few nagging questions we needed clarified. It is always helpful to learn from the experts, and we appreciate the Procurement team showing us some of their tricks of the trade.

On October 8, we were delighted to share a virtual presentation *Ch-ch-Changes! Using Humor to Navigate a Changing Work Environment*, by Melissa Walker, Ph.D., the director of Penn State's TRIO Training Academy in Educational Equity. Melissa spoke about change tolerance and acceptance and how it relates to our workplace. She told stories from her own experience to provide examples and gave our attendees concrete ideas about how to deal with change and the emotions that come along with it.

On October 28, Tina Hennessey, Assistant Vice President for University Development, spoke to support staff about her career path and 'leading from where we sit' in *Where Do You Sit on the Bus?* This engaging presentation provided ideas on moving forward with your career, being a leader in any role, working with or becoming a mentor, and setting goals for your future.

On November 4, Stephanie Shirk, a Client Relationship Manager for Penn State Extension, presented *Penn State Extension – Is Not Just About Agriculture*. In this informative session, Stephanie spoke about the variety of programming available through Penn State's Extension service. She explained how COVID-19 has impacted Extension's programming, gave us tips on how to receive updates about Extension programs that interest us, and provided an overview of what Extension does throughout our state.

We continue to hold our DDAR Staff Support Morning Breaks the first and third Wednesday morning of each month at 9:00 a.m. Hosted by the incomparable Patti Wenrick from our committee, these coffee chats provide support staff with an opportunity to Zoom with peers to discuss current DDAR and Penn State topics, to network, and to both offer and receive moral support. If you'd like to receive coffee chat invitations, please email Cheryl Vonada (ccv3).

We are committed to doing what we can to support the Division's DE&I goals. To this end, we have compiled a "road map" of sorts for our peers. This document provides a comprehensive list of DE&I trainings, groups, events, and resources that DDAR employees can choose from to meet their DE&I goals for the current performance cycle. Look for the road map [here](#).

Staff Support Committee members agree to serve for a three-year term, with the option to renew. This year we have two openings on our committee for the 2021-2023 term. If you are interested in serving on this committee, please visit the DDAR Staff Support Website at

<https://ddarstaffsupport.psu.edu/> and see the section *Now Accepting Applications for New Committee Members!* on the left side of the home page.

In upcoming events...we are very pleased to announce that our DDAR Vice President, Rich Bundy, will be helping our committee kick-off 2021 by offering to meet with all DDAR Support Staff on January 7<sup>th</sup> via Zoom. Details about this exciting opportunity will be available soon!

It has been a challenging year for everyone and, as we look toward the end of 2020, the DDAR Staff Support Committee would like to renew our commitment to the Division's support staff. We pledge to continue to provide meaningful programming, helpful training, moral support, and friendship to all. Please join us for one of our events!