

Title: Looking Forward to 2021 with DDAR Staff Support

Happy New Year to everyone from the DDAR Staff Support Committee. We are excited about the possibilities the new year provides and would like to share a bit about our successes and plans.

At the start of every year, we welcome our newest members to the Committee. We had so many wonderful candidates who applied for our two open positions this year, it made the selection process quite the challenge! With interest in our group growing exponentially, we feel the future is bright and hope that many of you will reapply for 2022!

For the 2021-2023 term, please join us in welcoming Chrissy Snyder, from Parent Philanthropy and University Programs, and Lyndsie McPadden, from Penn State Beaver, to our group. We are delighted to have them join our ranks and know they will bring expertise and enthusiasm to the Committee! We are also pleased to recognize our new committee leaders – Judy Hall, Chair, and Mindy Terpak, Vice-Chair!

This month, we hit the ground running with virtual offerings for all DDAR staff support. On January 7, Rich Bundy, Vice President for DDAR, joined us for an hour of updates about DDAR, the University, and the Campaign, and shared his 2021 vision for the division. He answered questions from participants, and offered an upbeat, positive message about how important he feels staff support are to DDAR. It was an inspiring start to a new year – one that we will certainly repeat.

Next on the horizon is a professional development opportunity. All staff support are welcome to join us for *A Tour of Launchpad* graciously hosted by Mark Golaszewski and Graham Walker from Development Communications. Mark and Graham will give us the ins and outs of the new Launchpad site on Thursday, January 28 from 1:00-2:00 p.m. If you missed your invitation, please contact Judy Hall (jqh4).

A shout out to our Development Assistant colleagues! Some of you may recall the Development Assistant Bagged Lunch Series which provided DA's with an opportunity to meet, learn about new topics, and compare notes. Chrissy Long, who is a DA for Outreach and Online Education, has put together a new Teams Group as a forum for ideas about getting DAs together in the coming months, and possibly restarting those networking opportunities. If you'd like to join the discussion, or you're a Development Assistant who would welcome the opportunity to interact with your peers, please contact Chrissy (c1114).

We'll be sending announcements in the coming weeks for more professional development virtual meetings, so keep checking your emails. Some of the highlights will include: a DE&I offering in February, *Common Traits for Success* in March, a *Forms Tutorial* in April, tips from a local psychologist on working from home, and nutrition and menu planning. It's going to be a great year!

We also plan to continue our very popular Coffee Chats for 2021. These informal discussions, which occur the first and third Wednesday of each month from 9:00-10:00 a.m., are open to all DDAR staff support and offer a forum for discussing work and general topics in a supportive environment.

If you have a question about DDAR Staff Support, or the division in general, our website is a great resource: <https://ddarstaffsupport.psu.edu/>. Here you can find information about the Committee and its members, a DDAR A-Z glossary, a collection of past Launchpad articles, upcoming trainings, and a Q&A section where you can ask our Committee members for assistance.

We look forward to another year of trainings, events, conversations, and connections with our peers. If you have a question or would like to learn more, please contact any of the Committee members below.

Sincerely,

DDAR Staff Support Committee

Jackie Armstrong, Penn State Hershey
Becky Beidler, Penn State Hershey
Amanda Brown, Bellisario College of
Communications
Heidi Cornwall, Annual Giving
Jeri Daniels-Elder, University Programs
Judy Hall, Annual Giving – **Chair for 2021**
Laura Harak, Penn State Berks
Janell Howe, Nittany Lion Club
Tammy Kurtz, Information Systems
Lyndsie McPadden, Penn State Beaver, **New
Member**

Karen Michel, Office of University Development
Beth Nagy, Penn State Behrend
Jessie Sargent, Penn State Berks
Chrissy Snyder, Parent Philanthropy and
University Programs, **New Member**
Jen Shutt, Donor & Member Services
Mindy Terpak, Annual Giving/Lion Line – **Vice-
Chair for 2021**
Cheryl Vonada, Schreyer Honors College –
Advising Chair-2021
Patti Wenrick, Alumni Association

