



Spring 2009

In this issue of the newsletter:

- [President Albrecht Announces Mandatory Furlough Required of All Utah State University Employees](#)
- [Message from our PEA Vice President, Lisa Leishman](#)
- [Budget & Higher Education Message from President Albrecht](#)
- [2009 Legislative updates](#)
- [Utah Higher Education Staff Association \(UHESA\) Priorities](#)
- [PEA Scholarship update](#)
- [Nominate a Co-Worker for Employee of the Quarter!](#)
- [PEA Elections for 3 positions approaching](#)
- [Wellness Announcements](#)
- [Alternative Work Schedule Information](#)
- [Mark your calendars – PEA annual luncheon](#)

President Albrecht Announces Mandatory Furlough

A mandatory furlough was announced Monday, February 2, 2009 by Utah State University President Stan L. Albrecht for all full- and part-time university employees in an effort to stave off immediate widespread layoffs as a result of a second round of budget cuts.

Each USU employee will be required to take leave without pay for five work days during spring break, March 9-13. During that week, the university will be closed. [Click here to read the full announcement.](#)

Message from Lisa Leishman

As your PEA Vice President, I want to discuss the budget cuts that Utah State University is facing. Before the Christmas break, Vice President Hunsaker spent nearly two hours with Doug Garrett (PEA President) and Karen Hoffman (CEA President). During this very informative meeting the budget cuts were discussed extensively. Vice President Hunsaker talked at length about the process they followed to make decisions, with the

focus on bringing equality to the decision making procedure.

Following this meeting, Doug explained to me how difficult the process is and how much time and attention the administration at USU has spent to make sure we remain fiscally sound. He also gained a sense of how the Administration cares about all of the employees and the work we do. At this meeting, Vice President Hunsaker committed to

Pres. Albrecht Budget Message

meeting with our executive boards, along with President Albrecht, the following week. During that meeting we were informed of some of the scenarios that may lie ahead, depending on the Legislative outcome. They are deeply concerned, as we all are, with the magnitude that these cuts could cause here at USU. We were able to ask questions and express our concerns to them and they addressed these as best they could.

We, as a PEA Executive Committee, are involved with voicing your concerns and how these budget cuts will impact the professional employees. With this said, there are many things that we just don't know at this point. The Administration is playing out different scenarios, but don't know themselves what USU will be facing in the end. Please stay calm and try not to worry until we have something to worry about. If you have concerns or questions, please feel free to contact me or any of the PEA Executive Board members. We will do our best to handle your concerns and keep you abreast of things that are happening at USU.

Please know that you are valued as a USU employee. The Administration does acknowledge the good work we do as professional employees. Even though many at USU will be impacted by these budget cuts, we continue to hope that the economy will improve and cuts won't be as drastic as predicted.

Thank you for all you do.

Lisa Leishman, PEA Vice President

Director

USU Parking and Transportation

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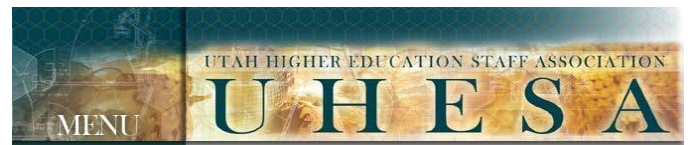
435.797.3475

In the Winter 2009 edition of Utah State Magazine, President Albrecht addressed the current state budget crisis and *“that the path to economic recovery goes directly through the public research universities”*.

Read the entire article [here](#).

2009 Legislative Updates

To find the latest information regarding Higher Education and the 2009 Legislative session, including reports, issue papers, bills, budget proposals, etc. click [here](#).



Utah Higher Education Staff Association

2009 Legislative Priorities

UHESA would like to thank legislators for the support you have shown Higher Education in the past. We look forward to working with you during this 2009 legislative session with the following considerations:

1. UHESA supports and appreciates the continuation of state funding for health insurance benefits.

2. UHESA recognizes Commissioner Sederburg's statement that money invested into Higher Education will create a positive economic impact for the state of Utah.

3. UHESA supports the use of the state's "rainy day" funds to help compensate for the economic downturn and mitigate further cuts on our campuses.

UHESA continues to be at the forefront in advancing the mission of Higher Education to help create a viable work force that can only enhance the economic outlook for the state of Utah in a positive manner. UHESA thanks you for your support!

Come and join UHESA Day at the Capital. The event will be held on February 5, 2009 from 10:00 am to 1:00 pm. We will meet in room C250. Those attending the day at the capitol (Thursday) will need to use their annual leave to attend. Contact Marian Olson for more information at 797-9044 or Marian.Olson@usu.edu.

PEA Scholarship Update

NEED money for school?
Apply for a PEA Scholarship today!
Deadline: Friday, March 20, 2009

Scholarship instructions and application are available at the PEA website:
<http://www.usu.edu/pea/html/scholarships-endowment>

Scholarship Criteria:

- A current Utah State University Professional Employee or the spouse, child, child-in-law, grandchild, or parent of a professional employee
- Currently attending Utah State University or have been accepted for admission to USU
- Enrolled in a degree seeking program or are a matriculated graduate student
- A GPA of 2.5 or higher

If you have previously received a PEA scholarship you are not eligible to apply.

If you have questions, please contact Shannon Johnson at: shannon.johnson@usu.edu or 435-797-1470

Please post the [flyer](#) in your departments.

Nominate a co-worker for Employee of the Quarter!

Your nomination of a colleague for the Professional Employee of the Quarter would be an outstanding way of saying "Thank you." You may nominate someone by visiting our web site at <http://www.usu.edu/pea/html/professional-relations>

The Employee of the Quarter for Fall 2008 was announced in December.

Congratulation to Katie Nielsen!

[Click here to see her spotlight.](#)

See the profiles of new members of the PEA at: <http://www.usu.edu/pea/html/university-relations/getting-to-know-you>

PEA Elections for 3 positions approaching

BE INVOLVED!!!

PEA Elections will soon be here. Consider nominating either yourself or a colleague to the PEA Executive Committee. We will be seeking nominations for:

- Treasurer,
- Employee Health Benefits Committee Chair,
- PEA Secretary.

Nominations may be made to Lisa Leishman at lisa.leishman@usu.edu or call her at 797-3475 for more information.

Wellness Announcements



Are YOU Sustainable?

Come to the Health & Nutrition Expo

Employee Health Screening

Taggart Student Center – West of Sunburst Lounge

Cholesterol Panel • Diabetes Screen • Fitness Testing

Percent Body Fat • Blood Pressure • Wellness Profile

Friday, February 20
9:00 am - 12:00 pm

Please pre-register by February 13

Contact: sharon.hislop@usu.edu; 797-1814

\$12 USU employees & spouse/partner (with insurance card)

\$24 for non-insured USU employees & spouse/partner

The theme of this year's Health & Nutrition Expo is Food and Sustainability. Activities include booths, hands-on demos, displays, food samples, prizes, and films. Learn about easy gardening techniques, Fair Trade, composting and recycling, food preservation, seasonal recipes, local, organic, and "slow" foods, sustainable seafood, wellness ... and more!

This exciting event is brought to you by the USU Department of Nutrition and Food Sciences dietetics students and sponsored by USU Employee Wellness and Service-Learning.



Learn parenting tips from parents just like you!!

Bear River Health Department is teaming up with USU Employee Wellness to bring the FAMILY WORKS Program to interested employees.

This lunchtime workshop is for working parents interested in improving family relationships and helping to find a work and family balance. Being a parent is not an easy job, so we hope parents will enjoy this opportunity to learn about parenting issues from other parents and professionals. Each class builds upon the previous one.

Topics include:

- Communication
- Effective Discipline
- Self Esteem
- Alcohol & Other Drugs

Location: University Inn Room 510

Class Dates: March 16, 18, 23, 25

Time: 12:00-1:00pm

Bring your Lunch. Light Be Well snacks will be provided

To sign up: contact sharon.hislop@usu.edu at 797-1814.

Caroline Shugart
Employee Wellness Coordinator
Office of Human Resources
www.usu.edu/wellness
caroline.shugart@usu.edu

Alternative Work Schedules

Since the State of Utah moved to a compressed work week, which includes expanded hours Monday through Thursday, and closing State offices on Friday, a number of groups have looked at the benefits and challenges associated with alternative work schedules.

On Tuesday, January 20, the MHR graduate students under the direction of Dr. Steve Hanks presented their findings on alternative work schedules to the PEA Executive Committee.

Although the university does not endorse or recommend a standard alternative work schedule, some of the professional employees may find this an interesting option.

Click [here to view the Power Point presentation](#) Dr. Hanks' students prepared. If you have questions about the presentation, please contact Dr. Hanks at steven.hanks@usu.edu or 797-2373.

Before pursuing an alternative work schedule, please remember it only works well in certain situations and needs careful analysis by any administrator considering implementation. Those that want information to personally consider different options should work out a proposal with their supervisor and contact HR directly.

Mark your calendars

Mark your calendars to attend the Annual PEA luncheon. It will be held on Tuesday, March 31 in the TSC Ballroom from Noon to 1:30. Please contact Taya Flores @ 7-1175 or taya.flores@usu.edu for more information.

For questions or comments concerning this newsletter, please contact Joe Vande Merwe @ joe.v@usu.edu