

What is Staff Council?

And how can I, a UTSA staff member, benefit?

By: Cié Gee

You have a voice!!!

In a sea of around 2, 650 UTSA staff members, you might think that no matter how loud you shout, your voice will never be heard. Not true. That's where we come in. Staff Council is an advisory body through which eligible staff members may convey information and make recommendations to the President regarding interests, suggestions, and concerns. Staff Council serves as the **voice** of the UTSA staff.

Did you know that Staff Council is almost 10 years old? Created in 2000, Staff Council is charged by the President and by the Board of Regents of the University of Texas System with the goal of continually improving university operations and the well being of UTSA's staff.

But where do you fit into the picture? Every staff area of UTSA has a representative on Staff Council. Members are nominated and elected by their fellow employees to serve two year terms. The members of Staff Council then serve on internal committees which strive to provide service, support, and a voice for you, the UTSA staff member.

To get the university staff community better acquainted with Staff Council we are proudly kicking off our monthly newsletter, the Staff Council BLAST! Each month we will highlight important events, members of staff council, and report on what we are doing to improve university operations.

Talk with us about your ideas, problems, issues, and whatever else is on your mind regarding the continuing success and prosperity of UTSA and its staff. We, your representatives, promise to take any and all issues to the Staff Council for consideration. We need you, as our constituents, to come forward!

Ever have a really good idea for something new on campus but not know who to talk with about it? Ever have a problem with something on campus and no one to go to? Well here we are!!!

Who is Staff Council?

By: Shannon Rios

Chair: Robert J. Garza – Institute for Economic Development

Vice Chair: Ginnifer Cié Gee – Office of the Registrar

Secretary: Shelley Underbrink – Distance Learning

Parliamentarian: Gregory Frieden – Inclusion & Community Engagement

Mark Munguia – Campus Recreation
Clay Haverland – Business Auxiliary Services
Paul Ayala – Orientation/Transition Programs
Renee Hopkins – VP Student Affairs
Ruth Coates – Associate Dean of Students
Bradley Jones – Distance Learning
Elba Ramos – Biology
Rebecca Pendell-Garza – Tomas Rivera Center
Venetta Williams - College of Architecture
Rene Lopez – Facilities - Plumbing
Patricia Morehead – Facilities Downtown
Israel Falcon – Environmental Health, Safety & Risk Mgt.
Arturo Almeida – Office of the President
H. Michael Witzel – ITC Production

Anne Macintosh Speights – Office of the Registrar
Cindy Orth - Office of DEFINE Admin. Services
Shirley Rowe – Career Services
Grace Fouts - University Center
Alegra Lozano – Academic Advising – COA
Ruby Rodriguez – Academic Advising – COPP
Amy Ramirez – Academic Advising – COB
Shannon Rios – Tomas Rivera Center
Julie Brunts – Library
Eric Cooper – Financial Aid
Cheryl Nunn – Human Resources
Belinda Dovalina – Facilities – Business Operations
Burt Reynolds – Business Auxiliary Services
Suzette Vallejo - Senior Assoc. VP Research Admin.

Contact form:

<http://www.utsa.edu/sc/forms/contact.cfm>

Spotlight on UTSA Staff



Introducing Robert J. Garza, Chair UTSA Staff Council

By: Gregory L. Frieden

Each month *Staff Council Blast* will introduce our readers to a member of the council. For our inaugural issue we felt it fitting to introduce Robert Garza, Chair of UTSA Staff Council. Robert is the IT Operations Manager for the Institute for Economic Development located on the UTSA Downtown Campus. Robert serves as the Chair of the Staff Council and as a representative for the VP of Community Services. Robert states, "UTSA is not only an academic institution; we give back to San Antonio and South Texas in so many ways. UTSA helps build the community and the economy so that the next generation of San Antonio is even better."

This is Robert's second year of his first two year term. Having served his first year as Vice-Chair; Robert hopes to be able to continue serving on the Council by being nominated and elected during the next election cycle in summer 2010. Robert says, "I wanted to serve on the Staff Council because I believe I would gain a better understanding of the University as an institution, and interact with staff members from across campuses and I'm doing just that."

By serving on Staff Council Robert wants for all UTSA Staff to understand that they are the lifeblood of the university. That with the Administration and Faculty, we all stand together hand-in-hand to demonstrate what is the best of San Antonio and higher learning. Robert also would like the administration to know that we are all linked together sustaining the push and the drive to our Tier 1 Status. That as a team – we will succeed together. Lastly, Robert wants every staff member to know and understand what the UTSA Staff Council is about and hopes that each staff member would want to serve the university as a council member.

Robert J. Garza
Staff Council Chair



Staff Council Scholarship Recipient: Tricia Napp

By: Shelley Underbrink

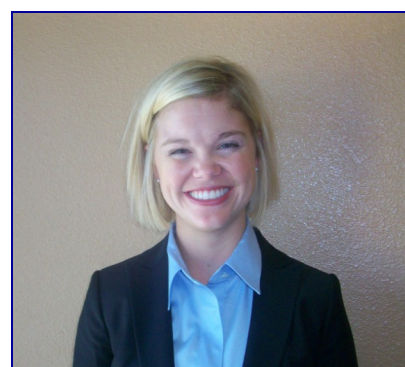
In the Fall 2009 semester, Tricia Napp was awarded a Staff Council Scholarship. Tricia found out about the Staff Council Scholarship through the Scholarship Office website <http://www.utsa.edu/scholarships/>. Currently, Tricia serves as a Graduate Assistant in the Office of Audit, Compliance, and Risk Services. She is responsible for assisting with the development of audit programs. Tricia performs audits, collects data and documentation, conducts research on internal controls and business processes, and writes reports for the Quality Assurance Review (QAR).

Tricia is currently working towards a Master's degree in Accountancy, and she expects

to graduate in May 2010. After she graduates, Tricia plans to pursue her CPA license in the summer of 2010, and she believes the Staff Council Scholarship has helped her get one step closer to achieving her goal. When asked what it meant to be awarded a Staff Council Scholarship, Tricia stated,

"By being awarded the Staff Council Annual Scholarship, my financial burden has been lightened, which allows me to focus more on the most important aspect of school, learning. This generosity has inspired me to help others and give back to the community. I hope one day I will be able to help students achieve their goals just as the Staff Council has helped me."

Staff Council Scholarships are available for degree seeking, benefits-eligible employees. Additional criteria for Staff Council Scholarship candidates are available on the Staff Council Scholarship page http://www.utsa.edu/sc/msc/sc_schol.cfm.



Tricia Napp
Fall 2009 Staff Council Scholarship Recipient

Upcoming Events

SECC Campaign 10/1 - 10/31
Goal of 91% participation!!!!

Best Fest 10/30

Celebrate UTSA 11/18

Staff Council Meeting 11/19

Staff Council Scholarship
Application Deadline 2/15