Message from the AVP

In the pursuit of doing things right, don’t worry so much about the possibility of something going wrong.

As you’ve heard me say before, we learn from our mistakes. The lessons that come from failures almost always create greater growth and a more lasting impression than the stagnation that comes from processes that remain the same and become mundane and ineffective. Another way to look at failure is that it is an unexpected outcome. If we have the confidence to explore new thinking, the intent is that it will be successful; it will lead to meaningful change. What is the worst that can happen if we move boldly and thoughtfully? Anxiety that a few people might complain? Concern that an idea is not 100 percent perfect? There are always people who will complain, and undertakings are seldom flawless on the first attempt, but we must keep trying to work more efficiently and creatively despite fear of repercussions and failure, or unexpected outcomes.

Few great ideas, inventions or discoveries came about on the first try. Some of our most rewarding medical cures and modern day innovations have taken years to perfect. Change is a continual process.

As we move forward in this new school year and new biennium, let’s challenge ourselves to work differently, think a new way, try a bold approach to solve a problem. What’s the worst that could happen?

UW Sustainability Summit, October 23

Celebrate and shape sustainability at UW during the fourth annual Sustainability Summit on October 23, 2013. This year’s Summit touts the University’s culture of sustainable thinking, research and education. Find out more at http://sustainabilitysummit.uw.edu.
Our Vision: Facilities Services is a world-class organization providing exceptional service anywhere, anytime to enable discovery and excellence at the University of Washington.

UW is StormReady

On Thursday, September 19, UW Emergency Management was officially recognized by the National Weather Service as StormReady. This designation acknowledges Emergency Management’s development of a hazardous weather plan, identification of communications and coordination facilities, distribution of NOAA radios to public areas on campus, and activities to increase public awareness of weather hazards. UW Seattle is the first college or university within Washington State to be recognized as a StormReady Community, and is currently the only school within the Pac-12 conference to accomplish this feat. To learn more, visit UWEM’s webpage at http://huskyem.org.

Diamonds for TS

Congratulations are due again this month to Transportation Services, this time for bringing home the Diamond Award for Outstanding Leadership from Enterprise Seattle Commuter Challenge.

Ride in the Rain Starts Nov. 1

Each year Transportation Services hosts Ride in the Rain, a month-long event that challenges riders to keep commuting by bicycle even when the weather gets a little soggy. Teams compete by logging their miles online. Associated events include bicycle safety classes. Learn more at www.uwcommute.com/riderain.

UW Benefits Open Enrollment, Nov. 1–30

Learn more at: http://www.washington.edu/admin/hr/benefits/insure/fac-staff-lib/meddent/open-enroll.html

2013 UW Combined Fund Drive Starts October 16

Each year, state and UW employees contribute to charities through the Combined Fund Drive (CFD). A small donation goes a long way as donations are put together and payments are made to the charities on a quarterly basis, providing steady income for the 3,400 charities involved. Easy, tax-deductible payments, many payment options, including one-time payments and paycheck deductions, and your choice of charities make the CFD a perfect way for UW employees to support the causes they care about. A charity fair and silent auction kicks off the drive on October 16, 11 a.m.–2 p.m. in the HUB North Ballroom. You can also donate your spare change to the featured charity for this year’s coin drive, the Northwest Burn Foundation, which helps burn injury survivors and advocates for burn prevention. For more information on the CFD, visit: http://www.washington.edu/uwcfd or contact your CFD department coordinator.

FS Installs ADA Platforms in Meany Hall

Check out the Meany Hall Blog to read about how Meany Hall has improved seating for people in wheelchairs, just in time for an October performance by AXIS, a dance company that features performers with disabilities. The ten-month project included expert work by FMC Sheet Metal Shop 56 and was project managed by Landon Conrad. Nice work! Read more at: http://uwworld-seriescommunityconnections.blogspot.com/2013/09/meany-hall-amps-up-access.html.

FS on the Web:
www.washington.edu/facilities

Newsletter Editor:
Breona Gutschmidt
Communications & Design Specialist
Organization Resources & Relations
breona@uw.edu
Team Building at All Staff Meetings

On September 13, both the Building Services Department and Transportation Services held meetings for all staff. Building Services’ gathering highlighted recognition for employee achievements, while Transportation Services’ event focused on training. Notable guest speakers attended each event. Congratulations to all those recognized for their achievements this year. Photos: TS Communications & Marketing, Allison Nitch & Bruce Jitodai.