

THE GW STAFF COUNCIL

Pillars Newsletter

A Message from Correspondence & Engagement Secretary, Amanda Kohn

For those of you who don't already know, this newsletter has been my steady project during my time with the Staff Council. If the newsletter has taught me anything, it's how wonderful GW staff really are. It is the hardest aspect of my position to give up. I was privileged to talk to so many different people across the university throughout my time in this position, but I got the most joy from the excitement and pride people had for their teams when I reached out for Community Connections or Staff Resources. GW staff are doing some truly amazing things for our community and I looked forward to being able to highlight that every single month.

I also want to thank each and every person who responded to the surveys and placed their trust in me to handle their responses with care. Your responses really fueled some important conversations at the leadership level and you all were my motivation to keep pushing forward every month.

I'd like to take a quick moment to thank President Schwartz for her guidance and support every single day. I took this position because I've always admired her leadership and knew this would be an incredible opportunity to effect real change. I have learned so much from her throughout my time in this role. I also want to thank Mallory McPherson-Wehan, without whom none of the surveys would have been possible. She put an incredible amount of work into them, allowing us to ensure we were collecting the best possible data about our staff and their GW experience.

I have met with Rhonda Fox, the newly elected Correspondence and Engagement Secretary for the 2025 term, and I know the newsletter (and role!) will be in good hands.

Signing off for the last time,

Amanda

Staff Paid Time Off Survey Results



Thank you to everyone who completed the Staff Paid Time Off Survey. In keeping with our standard practices, we wanted to ensure the results of this survey were shared publicly. As always, we want you to know that your feedback is important to us and it has, and will continue to, make an impact on both the council and the university community.

Staff Resources: Accessibility at GW

GW is committed to the principles of inclusion necessary to create a campus community in which the unique contributions of all its members are valued equally; this includes our responsibility to create and maintain physically and digitally accessible environments in compliance with applicable laws, regulations and university policies. Accessibility is an essential part of a positive experience and a critical component of all aspects of the university's operations, programs, and activities.

To meet this commitment and to comply with the Americans with Disabilities Act, Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act, and the Web Content and Accessibility Guidelines, the university has compiled resources such as classroom services, planning accessible events, and applicable university policies on the [Accessibility at GW webpage](#). The university has also convened the Accessibility Committee comprised of cross-institutional leaders to monitor physical and digital accessibility compliance and to maintain processes for the prompt and equitable resolution of complaints and inquiries regarding physical and digital accessibility compliance.

If you are experiencing a barrier that is preventing or impeding your or another community member's participation in any of the university's operations, programs, and activities, please submit a [Barrier to Accessibility Report Form](#). Questions regarding the university's efforts related to physical or digital accessibility can be sent to the Office of Ethics, Compliance, and Risk at comply@gwu.edu.

Accessibility Working Group

The Accessibility Working Group brings together members of the community from across the university to discuss accessibility related issues impacting staff, faculty, and students. We hope to help identify problem areas and inform decision-making as the university works to enhance accessibility awareness and implement more effective solutions. Meetings are held virtually every other Friday at 12:15 p.m. and are come-at-your-convenience. There is no required amount of attendance.

If interested in joining please email Terry Carter at tcarter85@gwu.edu.

Community Connections: GW Department of Biological Sciences



Who Are We?

The [GW Department of Biological Sciences](#) is one of the largest majors on campus, with around 300 majors, 25 Faculty members, 40 graduate students, and 5 amazing staff.

But Who ARE These Amazing Staff?

Emily L., Department Supervisor

Coleman, Department Administrator
Nico, SEH Lab Associate and Harlan Summer Program Coordinator
Emily T., Bell Hall Lab Associate
Rachel, Greenhouse Manager

What Do We Do?

Nearly 1400 students per year take one of our Introductory Biology courses. We have some very cool undergraduate and graduate courses, including one using our Scanning Electron Microscope. Our department is home to the beautiful [Harlan Greenhouse](#), which supports student research across several departments and at least 2 colleges, and even works with a local community garden. Every summer, the department hosts the [Harlan Summer Research Program](#), which supports 8 students each summer to work on research projects in one of our many labs.

Where Are We?

We want to recognize and appreciate the amazing work staff across the university do every day. This feature was designed to highlight one department, office, or team each month, allowing us to get to know our staff and how they contribute to GW's success. We hope to celebrate achievements, support initiatives, and find new ways for staff to stay connected with each other and the community.

If you'd like to nominate your department, office, or team for Community Connections or would like to see another department, office, or team featured, please email your nomination to staffcouncil@gwu.edu with a brief description of the fabulous work they're doing.

Career Milestones

Congratulations to all staff celebrating a career milestone this year. We appreciate all of your hard work and contributions to the GW community. GW would not be what it is without the dedication and support of our wonderful staff each and every day.

GW Today: [GW Honors Staff Members Who Have Reached Career Milestones](#)

Seeking: 2025 Representative for Athletics & Recreation and GWSPH

The 2025 Staff Council is seeking a representative Athletics and Recreation and a second representative for the Milken School of Public Health

Representatives must, at a minimum, join at least one [Staff Council committee](#) and attend Staff Council meetings. Most committees meet monthly. Details for 2025 Staff Council meetings will be provided at a later date. All meetings are virtual. You can find a full description of the Representative position in the [Staff Council Bylaws](#).

Eligibility:

Per the Staff Council Bylaws, GW Representatives must:

1. Have concluded their Introductory Employment Period (IEP)
2. Be in a benefited position (part-time or full-time)
3. Work in the division they are representing
4. Should not hold an executive-level position. Executive positions have employee classes of E1-3, please speak to your HR representative if you have any questions.

If you are interested, please email a statement of candidacy (why you are interested in the position) to staffcouncil@gwu.edu. The newly elected 2025 Staff Council will review candidates and vote on the nominees at the first official meeting in accordance with the Staff Council Bylaws.

If you have any questions about the role and responsibilities, you may reach out to staffcouncil@gwu.edu.

Attend a Staff Council Meeting

The final 2024 Staff Council Meeting will be held on Friday, December 20 from 10:00 AM - 12:00 PM. Registration is required so please [be sure to register](#). If you have any questions or topics that you would like to be addressed, please send them to your [Staff Council Representative](#) in advance of the meeting.

You can find meeting minutes from past meetings on the [Staff Council website](#), along with information on upcoming meetings.

Thank you to all who have attended these meetings and supported the Staff Council throughout the 2023/2024 term.

Details regarding registration for 2025 Staff Council meetings will be sent out at a later date.

[Submit Your Ideas and Feedback](#)



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