



# CAMPUS CONNECTIONS

## EMPLOYEE NEWSLETTER

Issue 7

JULY 2021

Vol. 1



**Pictured:** Cynthia P from McAuley, one our 25 vaccination lottery winners! See page 4 to find the names of the rest of our lucky winners!

### To all of our Misericordia staff,

This has been an extraordinary year. For many of us, it has been a terrible year, too, as we lost loved ones and time with our families. But for the residents at Misericordia, it has not been a terrible year thanks to the dedication of Misericordia's staff.

In Sister Rosemary's letters to the MFA parents, she always expressed wonder at "how well the residents" had adjusted to all the changes the pandemic and its restrictions had brought about. But as everyone knows, the "team" is only as good as their coaches. Throughout the past year, the residents had amazing coaches in their Qs and DSPs. The staff had to change their lives almost every day as new protocols emerged, but even more, had to guide the residents through procedures neither had ever experienced. Not only did they have to keep residents calm, happy, and occupied, they were expected to do it masked and gloved! And with no home visits, they had to provide comfort.

Less obvious, but just as important, was the creativity of all the rest of the staff. Nursing had to go from Tylenol to Covid tests, from seasonal flu to a possibly deadly virus. Housekeeping had to super-sanitize and CDS had to reinvent projects that could be done off-site to interest and stimulate the residents. A lot of craft happened on campus last year, thanks to the creativity and love of the Misericordia staff.

I am sure everyone has been thanked constantly for keeping the residents "safe." But thank you, thank you to everyone for helping the residents feel loved and valued.

Sincerely,

**Alice Eysenbach**, parent of Anna D

### WHAT'S INSIDE

- **Employee Wellness** 2  
*#MisericordiaStrong Vaccination Lottery Winners, O'Grady Catholic Health Trust, Vaccination Goal*
- **Diversity and Inclusion** 3  
*Local Businesses: Rogers Park Edition, E-mail signatures and Pronouns*
- **HR and Staff Development** 4-5  
*Fit for Success Graduation, Creating Opportunities, Ideas Forum*
- **Information Technology (IT)** 6  
*Spotlighting our IT Department, AWARDS and Internet Updates*
- **Mis Community Developments** 7  
*Family Fest Postponed, Construction at the Marian Center*
- **Community Day Services** 8  
*McAuley Expo, Having Fun with Knowledge Owl*
- **Did You Know?** 8  
*Together for Choice, Understanding Catholic Identity*
- **Monthly Recognitions** 9-10  
*Staff Spotlights, Anniversaries, Warm Welcomes, Look Who's on the Move*



# EMPLOYEE WELLNESS

## PROTECT YOURSELVES PROTECT OUR RESIDENTS PROTECT OUR COMMUNITY

The current rate of vaccinated staff is now 77.5 percent. Our goal is reach 80 percent, so please help us meet our goal!

As the Delta Variant of COVID continues to infect unvaccinated individuals we continue to encourage all non-vaccinated staff to get vaccinated for their protection and the protection of our community.

To find vaccination clinics for yourself or your loved ones, [click here](#) to visit vaccines.gov.

Be sure to turn in your card to HR after you complete your vaccines.



O'Grady  
Catholic Health Trust

Misericordia belongs to The O'Grady Catholic Health Trust. The mission of the Trust is to offer low-cost, high-quality healthcare benefit plans to Catholic organizations for the benefit of employees and their families that are consistent with Catholic social teachings. Health plans are available to you, your legal spouse, and legal dependents. [Click here](#) to visit the O'Grady website and learn more about their plans and benefits.

If you have questions or need additional clarification, you may visit HR or email [josephy@misericordia.com](mailto:josephy@misericordia.com).

# CONGRATS TO THE #MISERICORDIASTRONG COVID-19 VACCINATION LOTTERY WINNERS

- **Sammie Johnson** - Baker/Food/Shop/GHI/Religious/Social Services
- **Therese Barr** - CDS/Outreach
- **Alison M Slak** - CDS/Outreach
- **Joshua Turner** - CILA/Behavior
- **Rachel Michels** - CILA/Behavior
- **Fernando Sandoval Salgado** - Laundry/Finance/Housekeeping
- **Stephanie S Harris** - Marian Center/Pool&Fitness/Resource/Reception
- **Sheila King** - Marian Center/Pool&Fitness/Resource/Reception
- **Sharon Thomas** - Marian Center/Pool&Fitness/Resource/Reception
- **Joe Veselka** - McAuley Nursing
- **Cynthia Primar** - McAuley Residence & School
- **Alisia Truss** - McAuley Residence & School
- **Oludare Akintobi** - McAuley Residence & School
- **Lynne Winogrocki** - McGowan/Mercy Glen/IT
- **Ashley Ziemann** - McGowan/Mercy Glen/IT
- **Aleta Rush** - Nurses/BuildingOpts/Dental/RosemanyConnelly
- **Mon Ryan V Teh** - Nurses/BuildingOpts/Dental/RosemanyConnelly
- **Kim Villalobos** - Nurses/BuildingOpts/Dental/RosemanyConnelly
- **Lela Perez** - PR&Dev/HR&StaffDev/Shannon Apts/Therapy
- **Aster Ijigu** - PR&Dev/HR&StaffDev/Shannon Apts/Therapy
- **Rebecca Muzemil** - Quinlan/Purchasing/Security
- **Michael Baldwin** - Quinlan/Purchasing/Security
- **Karla Duran** - Village
- **Jenny Leszczynski** - Village
- **Nelliz Granados** - Village



# DIVERSITY AND INCLUSION

## E-MAIL NAME CHANGES AND PRONOUNS

The IT Department is aiming to help all employees set up email accounts and signatures that display their preferred names and pronouns. To ensure our system respectfully identifies everyone, we have taken the following steps:

- Asking new hires their preferred names so we can set up accounts that match their preference
- Updating our process for helping existing employees change their names
- Providing the option to create email signatures that include an employee's preferred pronouns

**For instructions on how to fill out these forms, click [here](#) and [here](#).**

*"Pronouns are basically how we identify ourselves apart from our name. It's how someone refers to you in conversation," says **Mary Emily O'Hara, a communications officer at GLAAD**. "And when you're speaking to people, it's a really simple way to affirm their identity."*

## SHARE YOUR PERSONAL EXPERIENCES AND STORIES WITH US

**Campus Connections** is interested in sharing your personal experiences related to cultural holidays, traditions, and heritage observances that align with our Community of Believers values and the mission of Misericordia.

If you have one that you would like to share, please email Andrew Blomquist at [andrewb@misericordia.com](mailto:andrewb@misericordia.com).

## LOCAL BUSINESSES FROM AROUND THE GLOBE: ROGERS PARK EDITION

### SMACK DAB CHICAGO

6730 N Clark St, Chicago, IL 60626

*"Good donuts and baked goods. Their shop has a very good vibe too."*

### GERBER HART LIBRARY AND ARCHIVES

6500 N Clark St, Chicago, IL 60626

*"They're an LGBTQ+ library that's a few blocks away from Mis. You can go there to check out books, buy books at their used book sales and look at their exhibits."*

### SABRI NIHARI

2502 W Devon Ave, Chicago, IL 60659

*"Their vegetable and meat Samosas are so good. They serve very healthy portions that are worth the price!"*

### LOST ERAS

1511 W. Howard St, Chicago, IL 60626

*"They have a lot of fun antiques and costumes! They also have a good selection of records in their basement!"*

**To find more businesses in our neighborhood, click the following links below!**

[Women-Owned Businesses in Rogers Park](#)

[Black-Owned Businesses in Rogers Park](#)

[LGBTQIA+ -Owned Businesses in Rogers Park](#)

**Send us a tip!** If you have recommendations for any local minority-owned businesses that Misericordia should know about, [click here](#) and tell us about their goods and services. We may highlight your suggestion in future issues of **Campus Connections!**



# HR AND STAFF DEVELOPMENT

## PHI E-BOOSTER: THE FOCUS QUESTIONS

Our fourth video in the Building a Coaching Habit series is now available, [here](#) on Stream. So often, we may feel overwhelmed with some of the challenges we face as an individual or as a team. The "Focus Question" helps you zero in on what the real challenges are, and how we can support each other as we address these. Find out more about the "Focus Question" right here!

In other PHI news, live boosters have returned for those that have completed the Coaching Approach to Supervision program. Watch for an email to sign up for future boosters, or contact [Mary Ann Goode](#) for more information.



**Participants (from L to R):** Front Row – David Minsky (CILA), Taquita Knight (Marian Center), Consuelo Teresi (PEP), Corona Luna (Mercy Glen), Crystal Magby (Quinlan), Arnold Novak (Village) Back row – Alex Bender (Marian Center), Bettina Hutchens (Village), Nishar Cheeks (CILA), Patricia Morgan (Village), Bilel Dekhili (Mercy Glen), Noah Styer (CILA), Joseph Watkins (CDS)

Fit for Success was the first tier of the new S.E.E.D. program and will be offered again at a future date. Tier 2 Essential Skills for Teamwork will begin in September. **Applications will be available August 1, and due August 20.**

## You Don't Want to Miss This! Power Hour: Ideas Forum

Misericordia will begin offering a quarterly forum series that will provide an opportunity to gather feedback or share ideas, collaborate in identifying a solution for a challenge, come together to learn about a particular topic, or participate in a meet and greet of Misericordia's leaders. Please keep your eye out for this in future **Campus Connections**.

## FIT FOR SUCCESS GRADUATES ITS FIRST CLASS

Congratulations to the thirteen staff who completed Fit For Success, the first tier of Misericordia's new Skills Enhancement | Employee Development (S.E.E.D.) program on July 1! Over the course of six weeks, these staff discussed such topics as identity, perspective, communication, conflict management, and our core values as a community of believers. Their wholehearted participation in the program made for a rich learning experience for everyone.

At the final session, the participants each shared a short presentation on their experiences in the class and how they will apply their learning in their roles at Misericordia to an audience of administrators, directors, and support persons. Their reflections inspired us all and filled us with great hope for Misericordia's future.

*"I highly recommend everyone take this program. You can get a lot from it. It opens you up and gets you thinking and understanding other people's perspectives. Overall it teaches you things that you can apply here and in your personal life." —Joseph Watkins (CDS)*



# HR AND STAFF DEVELOPMENT

## CREATING OPPORTUNITIES

Misericordia is committed to promoting from within whenever possible, and posts positions throughout the campus to give staff an opportunity to apply. Each posting is drafted to ensure that the qualifications needed for the position are accurate and integral to the position (some may require a degree while many others require professional experience along with skills)

The new Campus Connections and weekly updates now have a “Current Job Listings” section that is shared with the expiration dates for each posting in addition to posting within the areas. The posting is simply a snapshot along with the main qualifications. If you wish to pursue, the letter you submit is an opportunity to express why you are interested and also what you can bring to the role. Employees in good standing and who meet qualifications will be contacted for an interview.

The opportunity to interview is the chance to “sell yourself”. It is a time to share why you think the position would be better if you were in it and how taking on this role will allow you to contribute to our mission and have a greater impact. Break down the skills you have along with the areas you know you will need training on. Promoting from within creates the opportunity to strengthen our community with talented individuals looking to grow and make a difference while doing so.

## DSP PARTICIPANTS NEEDED FOR RESEARCH STUDY

The University of Massachusetts-Dartmouth is looking for **3-5 more direct support professionals** who support people with IDD and demonstrate resilience in their roles.

**If you have 60 minutes of free time outside of Misericordia and would like to participate, please contact [tiffanyj@misericordia.com](mailto:tiffanyj@misericordia.com) by July 23rd.**

This is a first-come, first-served opportunity. Participants will be compensated by the University for their time.

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENT RECEIPT OF THE REVISED EMPLOYEE HANDBOOK IN ADP

By now, you should know that we released the 2021 Employee Handbook, available on the ADP portal/Homepage. **All employees must acknowledge that they have reviewed the handbook in ADP by August 1st.** For instructions on how to acknowledge that you received the Handbook, [click here](#). You can also [click here](#) to see a summary of the handbook's updates. If you have any questions, please contact your supervisor.



# INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

## SPOTLIGHTING OUR IT DEPARTMENT

Are you are experiencing Wi-Fi issues? Did you forget your log-in password?

The IT department is here to help. They're responsible for enhancing and maintaining Misericordia's computer network, so residents and staff can stay connected and do their jobs efficiently!

### MARY JO O'BRIEN, SYSTEMS ANALYST



#### Fun Facts About Mary Jo:

- Novice birder
- Enjoys hearing about good books or things to stream on TV
- Loves attending free concerts and events in Chicago

"I use my background in communications and programming to transfer information between systems, disperse information over different channels of communication, and provide support for our retail systems. I work closely with all users of our donor database and have been fortunate to work with parents and the MFA in that regard."

### CHRIS CENTENO, HELP DESK SPECIALIST



#### Fun Facts About Chris:

- Likes watching mixed martial arts events
- Bigtime foodie
- Love playing the video game Destiny 2 JRL

"I setup, maintain and deploy the iPads used for AWARDS. Support users with computer software or hardware-related issues or other IT requests."

### SCOTT THOMPSON, CHIEF INFORMATION OFFICER



#### Fun Facts About Scott:

- Grew up in Indiana and move to Chicago almost 30 years ago
- Likes to travel and fall camping (no bugs)
- Enjoys woodworking and fixing things around the house

"Since I started here (just over 1 year ago), I have been focused on implementing new systems: Wi-Fi and AWARDS."

### RON MASTERSON, SYSTEM ADMINISTRATOR



#### Fun Facts About Ron:

- Fan of classic cars and has a 1968 Pontiac Firebird
- Avid reader
- Enjoys camping and hiking

"I focus on building solutions for the technology systems that Misericordia relies on today."

### ERICK VARGAS, TECHNICAL ANALYST



#### Fun Facts About Erick:

- Loves Dunkin Donuts Iced Coffee
- Pittsburgh Steelers Fan
- Likes exploring pop up exhibits (ex: Van Gogh Exhibit Experience, Michelangelo's Sistine Chapel Exhibition)

"I mainly take care of hardware-related issues. A couple of examples would be computers dying, and me having to replace them. Setting up new computers/laptops for staff, upgrading old/slow computers, and basic troubleshooting of printers. I also take care of the MaintenanceCare IT tickets that come into the IT department."

## AWARDS AND INTERNET UPDATES

- Mercy Glen and Quinlan will go live with AWARDS on August 1st.
- Rosemary Connelly and McGowan will go live on September 1st.
- Installation of outside Wi-Fi continues to take place on campus.
- IT equipment is being ordered and setup for Misericordia's Hearts and Flour Bakery and Cafe.

## CAMPUS CONNECTIONS



# MISERICORDIA COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENTS

## FAMILY FEST 2021 POSTPONED

In the interest of keeping everyone safe, we have made the difficult decision of postponing this year's in-person Family Fest. Yet, your support is still vital! At some point in the future, we will invite you to participate in the car and cash raffle, as well as sponsorship opportunities. Please stay tuned for details.

### CONSTRUCTION AT THE MARIAN CENTER

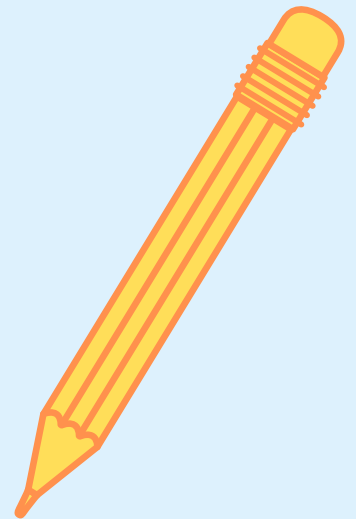
Potentially starting July 19th or soon after, the Marian Center will undergo a construction project to install sail shades in McGee Park, the green space located between the Gleason/Grace Chapel (the South length of the building) and the Marian Center (the north length of the building). We anticipate some noise and perhaps some blocked-off portions of the sidewalk near the space. We will have one day in which a portion of the Norkett lot will need to be blocked as well.

Thank you in advance for your patience and understanding. We are excited about the latest undertaking!

### #MISERICORDIASTRONG

## CALLING ALL DESIGNERS AND ARTISTS!

We are looking for inspiration for a new Misericordia Community of Believers (COB) Logo and we need your help! We have recently added a fifth value, Diversity & Inclusion. The Community of Believers values includes *Quality of Life, Connection, Responsibility, Spirituality, Diversity & Inclusion*. Please submit your design to Julie O'Sullivan [julieo@misericordia.com](mailto:julieo@misericordia.com) by Friday, July 30th. The final version of the design will be used for COB communication moving forward.



### COMMUNITY OF BELIEVERS LOGO DESIGN PARAMETERS

- please do not use photos
- please use Misericordia branded colors only (you are not required to use all of them): red, burgundy, white, black, and gray
- please use clean lines with solid colors, no shading
- must be able to see the full design clearly if it needs to be reduced in size for things like letterhead



# COMMUNITY DAY SERVICES

## Community Day Services Presents



### AN ART EXHIBITION FEATURING THE WORK OF

Conway CDS  
McAuley CDS  
Misericordia School  
McAuley Recreation Therapy

THROUGH JULY 31ST  
IN THE MCAULEY ROTUNDA



**(Clockwise):** McAuley residents Jon P, Montell P, Phillip R, and Kaitlyn P and staff Sam B. To preview more artists and their works, [click here](#) to see the McAuley Expo exhibition guide.

## HAVE FUN WITH KNOWLEDGE OWL

Are you looking for a fun activity on a Friday night? Look no further than Knowledge Owl! This resource is full of easy-to-access activities. Whether it's Friday night recreational activities or a lesson plan for your CDS program on Monday morning, Knowledge Owl has you covered. For more information and login information please contact Nora Turgeon at [norat@misericordia.com](mailto:norat@misericordia.com) or Lukas Willis at [lukasw@misericordia.com](mailto:lukasw@misericordia.com). [Click here](#) to learn how to line dance to Achy Breaky Heart!

## DID YOU KNOW?

### TOGETHER FOR CHOICE

Misericordia is a founding member of **Together for Choice (TFC)**, a national organization of 1,200 members with representation across 50 states. TFC advocates to "protect and advance the rights of individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities (I/DD) to live, work and thrive in a community or setting of their choice."

To learn about **Together for Choice** and find news related to the Human Services field and communities like ours, [click here](#) to visit the TFC website.

### UNDERSTANDING CATHOLIC IDENTITY

Misericordia is a Catholic ministry of the Archdiocese of Chicago. We celebrate our diverse heritage and inclusive community. On a regular basis, this space will share information about Catholic tradition to make us aware of its scope and breadth.

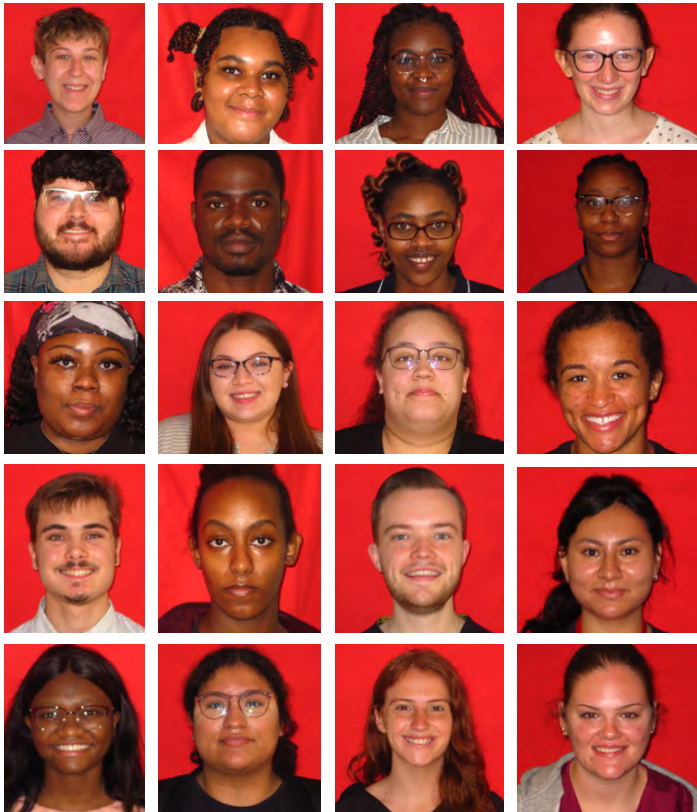
## CAMPUS CONNECTIONS





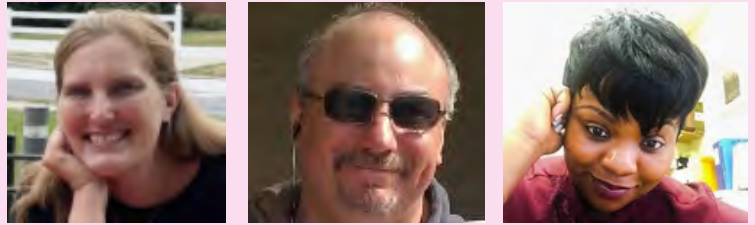
# MONTHLY RECOGNITIONS

## WELCOME NEW RESIDENTIAL AND CDS STAFF



**Ruth Marcum** (McAuley); **Felisa Arias** (McAuley); **Eve Werth** (McAuley); **Jade Riedel** (Village); **Christina Nutter** (Village); **Kathryn Rosenthal** (Village); **Bridget Vivoda** (Recreation Therapy); **Nicholas Presutti** (Village); **Yao Amegan** (Village); **Grace Kariza** (Marian Center); **Ashley Blackwood** (McAuley); **Shanqwanta Horne** (Marian Center); **Ciara Martinez** (Marian Center); **Sade Carter** (Marian Center); **Michala Belter** (McAuley); **Jack Groskopf** (Rosemary Connelly); **Nuhamin Asfaw** (McGowan); **John Golden** (McAuley); **Marieli Alamilla** (McAuley); **Iradukunda Claudine** (Shann Apts); **Stephanie Lopez** (Mercy Glen); **Bridgid Brennan** (CDS); **Claire Oliver** (McAuley)

## RECENT STAFF SPOTLIGHTS



Posted on Facebook, **Staff Spotlights** acknowledge and celebrate the hard work and uniqueness of the individuals who help make us #MisericordiaStrong. Check out our latest:

**Beth Denbrow** (Development)

**Ron Masterson** (Information Technology)

**Kristina Lipsey** (Staff Development)

Click their underline names to read about them. You can also scroll the Misericordia **Facebook** page to see our previous Spotlights.

## INTERNATIONAL DAY OF FRIENDSHIP

Friday, July 30th is International Day of Friendship, and we'd love to capture inspirational resident-to-resident friendships on our campus!

If there are residents in your area who have remarkably close bonds with other residents, send their pictures and a blurb to [tiffanyj@misericordia.com](mailto:tiffanyj@misericordia.com) by July 30th. We'd love to share their story in **Campus Connections**.

## IN MEMORIUM



Our Misericordia community feels deeply saddened by the loss of Therese "T" Loftus from Development. To read the Sun-Times obituary article written by Maureen O'Donnell, [click here](#).



# MONTHLY RECOGNITIONS

## LOOK WHO'S ON THE MOVE

- **Frederick Burnice**, former DSP in CILA Homes, now BSP in CILA Homes
- **Saadia Caudle**, former Residential Coordinator in CILA Homes, now QIDP in CILA Homes
- **Megan Christianson**, former RN, now Co-Director of Nursing in Nursing Services(Main Campus)
- **Wendy Gee**, former DSP at McAuley, now Teacher at McAuley School
- **Tessa Kammer**, former DSP at Quinlan, now Recreation Aide in Resource and Recreation Department
- **Heather Kauss**, former CDS Instructor at CDS, now QIDP at McGowan Home
- **Steven Morris**, former DSP at McGowan Home, now Charge DSP at McGowan Home
- **Abigail Rambo**, QIDP CILA Home, now QIDP/Relief Sup in the CILA Homes
- **Monica Ryan**, former CDS Instructor at CDS, now RBT in the Therapy Department
- **Dorel Tapia**, former Cook Assistant in Food Services, now Cook in Food Services
- **Mon Ryan Teh**, former QIDP at Rosemary Connelly Homes, now QIDP/Relief Supervisor at Rosemary Connelly Homes
- **Anna Vettters**, former DSP at McGowan Home, now Charge DSP at McGowan Home
- **Charles Walsh**, former DSP at Mercy Glen, now CDS Instructor at CDS

## JULY ANNIVERSARIES

- 44** Mary Pat O'Brien
- 37** Victoria Crawford
- 32** Vida Sereika
- 27** Gisele Jackson
- 25** Rachael Carr-Ozenbaugh
- 24** Barbara Ascencio
- 22** Andrzej Witanek
- 20** Jorshid Quintero, Dominic Colon
- 19** Sharon Thomas, Kyle Rhone, Brandy Paris
- 18** Maria Lising
- 15** Betty Amos, Natasha Braswell, David Sapinski, Pamir Caicedo
- 14** Maria Diaz
- 11** Linda Mazur
- 10** Edenel Orillaza, Finesse Whitfield, Joseph Young, Delores Pryor
- 9** Toni Tidwell
- 8** Erick Gregg, Mayra Ocampo, Brian Hartig, Megan DeCarlo, Michael Woods
- 7** Mayra Aguirre, Danijela Veljkoivic
- 6** Dzenita Sefer
- 5** Danae Abram
- 4** Caitlin McKay Cabrera, Nicholas Petrus, Kizzie Rogers, John Chambergo, Karla Duran, Nancy Gaytan, Letisa Jones, Cynthia Rios, Jessica Disbrow, Terriana Newell
- 3** Grace Glan, Latrice Coleman, Steven Morris, Rebecca Mankus, Deadra Anderson, Crystal Magby, Kristine Monhollon, Louise Morais, Tajonea Pittman, Kirk Thompson, Katelyn Vergil, Aaliyah Taylor
- 2** Rakeiaa Fortner, Johnnie Gogins, Renita Johnson, Leah Petrak, Gabrielle Backstrom, Anna Vettters, Sydney Rebella
- 1** Danielle Green, Emily Hansen, Bellone Ndakebuka, Jessica Nowak, Alyssa Ohlson, Leonardo Rodriguez, Matthew Schrottenboer, Melissa Torres-Nuno, Susanne Lavorini, Yesica Mejia-Luna, Megan Kenway

Stay tuned for weekly **Campus Connections** updates sent via email. You can also find previous issues of **Campus Connections** in ADP and [here](#) on our website. If you have any questions or feedback for us, send your messages [here!](#) Be sure to include your name, work area, and an email we can use to contact you!