



Luis Sotelo, VP for Diversity, Equity & Inclusion, receives a 10/10 for best holiday sweater at the Dec. 1 Holiday Open House in Fred Brown Center (note: there wasn't actually a holiday sweater contest.) Luis, Wendy Huntsmann, DEI specialist, and Leah Cech, equity compliance officer, headed up DEI's craft room during the alumni event.

## Staff Council

Doane University Staff Council Monthly Newsletter  
December 2023

### Updates

The end of the year isn't just stressful for our students! So don't put off that self-care just because break is close. One way you can take a short recharge is to use Continuum's Employee Assistance Program. The December topic for the program's personal development training? "Relaxation RX."

To access this on-demand training, visit [www.4continuum.com](http://www.4continuum.com) and go to the Member Login (upper right corner.)  
Login: Doane  
Password: 7636

### Upcoming Events

#### Winter Commencement

Saturday, Dec. 16  
Begins at 1 p.m.  
Fuhrer Fieldhouse (Crete)

#### Doane closed for holidays

Offices will be closed starting end-of-day on Friday, Dec. 22 through Monday, Jan. 1. We'll see y'all on Jan. 2 and wish everyone a great holiday season. 🌟🎅🎄

### Meet a member of Staff Council



Meet Steph Hemje, experiential learning coordinator in the Office of Career, Leadership & Service! She helps connect students to internships and service learning opportunities, and has been at Doane for three years. But she's spent a lot more time in Crete — she grew up on a farm between Crete and Lincoln, attending Rokeby School (a small country school, now a private residence) and graduating from Crete High School.

Steph now lives in Crete with her family, husband Kyle (who teaches math and coaches at Crete Middle School), kiddos Titus (12), Marcus (10) and Bailey (7). And of course, pets — Elsa the cat, and calves Marshmallow and Oreo. *My absolute favorite thing to do is simply spend time with my family, no matter what we are doing*, she says. But you can add running with friends, reading and traveling to that list, too.

And if you want to know Steph's favorite season? It's right now! *I love everything about the holiday season*, she says. Christmas is her favorite holiday with its strong ties to her faith.

### Good to know!

#### We shared some info about the Public Service Loan Forgiveness program in October.

And y'all had some questions! When you apply for [Public Service Loan Forgiveness](#) (PSLF), open to employees at non-profit organizations (like Doane!), you'll be prompted to email someone at Doane to certify your employment. That email is [humanresources@doane.edu](mailto:humanresources@doane.edu)! Woo! Thanks HR!

#### To BCC or not to BCC

That's "blind carbon copy." When you drop email addresses in the bcc line, recipients can see the email — but can't reply to anyone but the original sender (or see the names of other recipients.) The answer is yes, by the way. If you're sending to any campus-wide (or wider) email, bcc that business. [Allemployees@doane.edu](mailto:Allemployees@doane.edu) will thank you when we don't consequently receive multiple emails from someone hitting "reply all." □

### Doane University fun fact



Did you know that Doane had a *synchronized swimming team*? Butler Gymnasium used to have a pool — it was how Doane was able to provide Navy officer training during WWII. For several decades following, the pool remained in use for community swimming lessons and for the Doane Dolphins (pictured)!

### STAFF COUNCIL MISSION STATEMENT

*We pledge to work in partnership with Doane faculty, students, the Leadership Team and the Board of Trustees to enrich the culture of Doane staff by supporting an inclusive, inviting and equitable community.*

*Staff Council serves as a communication conduit between staff and administration. Staff Council commits to providing a voice for staff to formulate and endorse recommendations for action to improve the work environment, opportunities, policies and procedures for the betterment of the Doane community.*

### Your 2023-24 Representatives

**Brandon Rieschick** — Chair

**Brad Jenny** — Chair Elect

**Miranda Henderson** — Secretary/Treasurer

**Liz McCue** — Vice Chair of Communications

**Kaleb Arterburn** — Vice Chair of Staff Recognition

**Shalea Wood-Akers** — Vice Chair of Staff Development/Events/Services

*Denise Ellis* — Co-Champion

*Kerry Beezley* — Co-Champion

*Jenei Skillett* — Liaison to the Leadership Team

**Interim: Brandon Rieschick** — Group 1: Maintenance, Facilities, Grounds, Events

**Marie Knapp** — Group 2: Academic Support, Advising, Library, Registrar, Institutional Research, Campus Directors, Faculty Secretaries

**Liz McCue** — Group 3: Instructional Design, Open Learning Academy, Information Technology, Service Center, Human Resources, Business Office, Student Accounts, Safety Office, Marketing

**Mike Sebaaly** — Group 4: Athletics

**Stephanie Hemje** — Group 5: Admissions, Enrollment, Career and Leadership, Diversity Equity & Inclusion, Financial Aid, Veterans Affairs, Residence Life and Education, Counseling, Nurse, International Students, Advancement, Alumni

**Kelsee Dunn & Mellanie Gilroy** — At-Large; Non-residential programs in Lincoln, Omaha, online and/or graduate programs



# DOANE UNIVERSITY