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THE COMMUNICATOR

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JOIN CPC!

WHAT IS CPC?

The council represents CSU state classified employees on issues such as raises, parking, work-life balance, supervisor training, and employee recognition, and members contribute to many university committees across campus.

WHAT WOULD I DO?

CPC members meet monthly and serve on one of five committees. Time commitment is between 2-4 hours/month.

AM I ELIGIBLE?

All certified State Classified personnel with appointments of half-time or greater who have been employed by CSU for at least 6 months as State Classified employees are eligible for membership on the Council. Employees reporting directly to the Colorado State University System or Board of Governors must work on CSU's main campus in Fort Collins to join the Council.

WHERE DO I SIGN UP?

Find out more and submit an application: https://col.st/5zOJa

WHY CONSIDER BEING A CPC MEMBER?

- Advocate for fellow employees (1,300+)
- Leadership opportunities and connections with various CSU leaders!
- Enact change – be a part of the conversation / have a seat at the table
- Growth opportunity, further career aspirations
- Meet other employees across campuses

Scan this QR code to learn more:

HTTPS://CPC.COLOSTATE.EDU/

Classified Personnel Council

News & Updates

Classified Personnel Council Welcomes 2025/2026 New Members

Classified Personnel Council Welcomes 2025 – 2026 New Members

The Classified Personnel Council welcomes seven new members for the 2025 – 2026 academic year. Each member will serve a three-year term.

- Millie Mitchell (Student Disability Center)
- Amp Gonzalez (Housing and Dining Facilities)
- Tyler Heyne (Department of Biology)
- Zoelle Lane (International Programs)
- Scott Michelena (Facilities Management)
- Amy Barkley (Faculty Council)
- Lesa Wronski (Veterinary Teaching Hospital).

Classified Personnel Council Announces 2025/2026 Executive Committee Members

The Classified Personnel Council proudly announces its 2025 – 2026 executive committee members.

- Jim Abraham, Radiation Safety Officer for the Department of Environmental Health Services, is serving his third term as Chair.
- Sammi Milyard, Lead Dispatcher for the CSU Police Department, is the council's new Vice Chair.
- Adrian Macdonald, Financial Officer for the Department of Statistics, is serving his third term as Treasurer.
- Jillian Zucosky, Curriculum and Catalog System Specialist for the Office of the Registrar, is the council's new Secretary.

Updates on Federal Actions

For information on changes and updates regarding current federal actions, please check out https://federalupdates.colostate.edu.

Curious About CPC Meetings and Discussions?

CPC meets on the 3rd Thursday of the month 1-3:30 p.m. in person at the LSC. All meetings are open to the public. Please contact the CPC Secretary at cpc_secretary@mail.colostate.edu for more information on meetings.

NOTE: Verify summer meetings as the schedule may vary from the regular academic year.

https://cpc.colostate.edu/

Classified Personnel Council

Recognition & Awards

Educational Assistance Award Recipient

Kirsten Kraft was awarded an Educational Assistance Award to help her on her journey of finally completing her undergraduate degree. Kirsten decided this year to use the Employee Study Privilege and a small student loan to be able to complete the remaining 30 credits she needs to complete her Psychology degree. The $500 was used to assist Kirsten in getting an upgraded laptop to use for her studies. Kirsten wants to express her gratitude in receiving this award as it really helped in getting her ready for a successful educational journey.

Day in the Life

“Day in the Life" are brief spotlights that introduce the CSU community to the diverse responsibilities, duties, and stories of state classified employees. More available here: https://cpc.colostate.edu/annual-cpc-awards/day-in-the-life/

Everyday Hero Awards

Everyday Hero recognizes the day-to-day achievements of CSU employees. https://cpc.colostate.edu/annual-cpc-awards/everyday-hero-award/

Educational Assistance Award

Established in 2009 to assist state classified employees seeking to move ahead in their jobs/careers, employees may use the Educational Assistance Award to meet any needs associated with furthering their education, such as tuition, books, technology, child care expenses, and gas for traveling to/from class. https://cpc.colostate.edu/annual-cpc-awards/educational-assistance/

COMMUNITY & ENGAGEMENT

DID YOU KNOW?

Colorado State Employee Assistance Program

For all State Classified Personnel, July marks the start of renewed benefits and the opportunity to take advantage of certain benefits that now start as part of the “calendar year”, such as those from CSU’s Employee Assistance Program. While many may know that CSU employees and dependents are offered six free therapy/counseling sessions per family member, per issue, per calendar year, there are a good number of employees (such as myself until a few years ago) who don’t know that something similar is offered through the Colorado State Employee Assistance Program. Similar to CSU’s EAP, State Classified Employees are eligible for CSEAP which offers value-added programs and services at no cost!

By going to https://cseap.colorado.gov/ you’ll see that there are a lot of similar benefits and one benefit that I have found most rewarding are the Mental Health and Counseling services. While CSU offers just 6 free therapy/counseling sessions, we as state employees have access to 8 counseling sessions per rolling year, free-of-charge, with sessions that occur every 3 to 4 weeks. I used these benefits myself in 2024 and found it helpful to speak to someone who could be more objective looking at personal and professional issues, offering good advice on stress reduction, mindfulness strategies, and helping me tackle issues with more resiliency. I plan to continue with this benefit throughout this year of 2025 and into 2026. Given all the outside factors at the state and federal level that affect our personal and professional lives, it can be truly helpful talking to a trained professional to help deal with anxiety, depression, workplace stress, or really any challenges we must face week in and week out. The ability to speak with someone confidentially to get things off our chest, explore other avenues of assistance and see another perspective can be a great form of relief, as it was for me.

We put in a lot of good work for CSU and by extension, the State of Colorado, so taking advantage of additional benefits under CSEAP is something that I highly recommend to all State Classified Personnel here at CSU.

Tyler Heyne

COMMUNITY & ENGAGEMENT

DID YOU KNOW?

Leave Opportunities

As employees of CSU, we may be eligible to take advantage of one of a handful of "Leave" opportunities that are pretty remarkable and forward thinking. I learned about this last year when I was in a potentially urgent situation with regard to my son's health needs. I started the process of applying myself and felt the process was fairly straightforward. I ended up not choosing this route because I realized that the peace I maintain by interacting on campus was and continues to be a powerful healing modality I never realized I count on to get through the day. However, just knowing these options are a part of our toolbox brought me great calm and comfort and it should to you as well no matter where you are in life.

From self care due to a serious health condition, addressing the urgent safety needs impacted by domestic violence or sexual assault, bonding with a new child (including adopted and fostered children), caring for a family member or making arrangements for a family member's military deployment, this benefit may be the answer you are looking for.

Additionally, Governor Jared Polis signed a new law where Colorado will become the first state in the County to support parents with newborns receiving intensive care with additional paid leave. The new type of leave is called Neonatal Care leave and will allow parents to take up to 12 additional weeks of paid time off while their newborns are in the Neonatal Intensive Care unit.

Both employers and employees contribute premiums to the program. Premium contributions began in January 2023. Use the FAMLI Premiums & Benefits calculator to estimate the cost and benefit to you.

Millie Mitchell
Class Transcriber
Student Disability Center

Mortgage Insurance Waiver

CSU Housing Programs has partnered with Canvas Credit Union to offer a mortgage insurance waiver exclusively for University employees.

CSU employees who meet criteria of the program can save hundreds of dollars a month in mortgage insurance and can purchase a home with a smaller down payment.
The Mortgage Insurance Waiver Program is a financial-need based program for employees (See mortgage insurance waiver eligibility criteria).

https://hr.colostate.edu/housing-program-mortgage-insurance-waiver-for-employees/

COMMUNITY & ENGAGEMENT

Classified Personnel Council Welcomes 2025 – 2026 New Members

The Classified Personnel Council welcomes seven new members for the 2025 – 2026 academic year. Each member will serve a three-year term.

Millie Mitchell (Student Disability Center)

“Years ago, I miraculously met the right people who told me about the Student Disability Center at CSU and was blessed with this great opportunity to help students and be a part of an incredible group of people. This will be my 10th year at CSU, and I hope to be here many more years and continue to collaborate and build great friendships and bonds.”

Amp Gonzalez (Housing and Dining Facilities)

“My favorite things about CSU are how the employees always put their best foot forward. No matter what, everyone always does their best to ensure that work gets done and at a high level. In addition, I love the distinct communities that are made in each team, people make the best of what they have and do their best to be welcoming and enjoy their time here.”

Tyler Heyne (Department of Biology)

“One of my favorite things about CSU is learning about all the incredible research going on throughout the main campus and how students are involved in that process, giving them great experience for after they leave. In the biology department, it’s nice to know that while I don’t have a direct hand in the research and experience that occurs in the labs, the work I do along with other state classified colleagues helps them achieve their goals on the peripheral field of things.”

Zoelle Lane (International Programs)

“It is vital to me that I’m actively making the community around me better in everything I do. Through the Classified Personnel Council, I can put my skills and passion to good use here in the broader CSU community.”

Scott Michelena (Facilities Management)

“One of my favorite things about CSU is getting time to do things in personal life, which private sector construction hours do not allow, also being part of CSU events and sports.”

Amy Barkley (Assistant to Faculty Council)

“My favorite part about CSU is the people. I've met the kindest, most genuine and thoughtful people through my current role, as well as my schooling here. (I am a CSU alum three times over.) There is so much creativity and passion for what CSU is and I'm grateful to be a small part of it all.”

Lesa Wronski (Veterinary Teaching Hospital)

“I refer to myself as a crazy chicken lady and have been part of the veterinary world for almost twenty years with the past six working in the Ophthalmology Service at CSU’s Veterinary Teaching Hospital as a registered veterinary technician. I love to teach and learn new things and the best part of my job in the VTH is when I see one of my students have that lightbulb moment because they really understand something new I have taught them.”

COMMUNITY & ENGAGEMENT

NEW MEMBER INTERVIEWS

The Classified Personnel Council has many new members this past year. To get to know our new council members, we are conducting interviews. If you are a new member and would like to be interviewed, please reach out to any member of the Communications Committee.

Please welcome Tyler Heyne, who is not only a new member, he has also joined the Communications Committee.

Tell us a little about yourself!

Hi, my name is Tyler Heyne, I'm a Colorado native born over at PVH and have lived in Loveland for 28 years of my 38 years on this planet. I have a BS in International Science from Scranton University, and have worked in both Larimer County, Boulder County and at a family micro-business after returning to Colorado in 2016 before coming to CSU. I enjoy movies, trivia, going up to the mountains and spending time with family and friends.

What's something fun or surprising about you that others might not know?

One interesting fact about myself is that I've lived abroad in South Korea for 3 and a half years and I've travelled to over 12 countries, visiting fascinating landmarks, meeting intriguing individuals and learning many new things along the way.

Who or what motivates you to give back to the State Classified personnel at CSU?

All of the S.C. personnel here at CSU give 100% or more every day that that we work at CSU, whether it's those folks who work in daylight during the weekdays or those who work overnights or on weekends. I know that the S.C. colleagues of mine in my department really strive to give the best service to students, faculty and visitors who come into our building, working together to enhance the student experience here on campus. I look at the hourly S.C. folks in custodial services, facilities management, reconstruction remodel services and housing & dining who form a major backbone of what happens behind the scenes here at CSU and how their efforts are not often recognized or awarded as much as they should be.

I'm motivated by the shared dedication that we have to the students, the institution and all our other colleagues here on campus. S.C. Personnel are a central pillar in the foundation, the foundation itself, of making sure that things run properly at CSU; it's my goal to work hard for all our efforts to be recognized and to see what I can do working with other council members to help improve our professional opportunities as CSU S.C. employees.

ON & OFF CAMPUS RESOURCES

COLORADO WINS

Colorado WINS is a union that represents state employees in Colorado. For more information, please visit:

- https://www.coloradowins.org/
- Current partnership agreement between the State and CO Wins

C2C: COMMITMENT TO CAMPUS

Colorado State University's Commitment to Campus encompasses a wide range of programs, discounts, and special benefits available to CSU faculty and staff.

- Employee health, wellness, and personal advancement
- Employee discounts for Ram Athletics
- Family activities and resources
- Equity resources like Emergency Hardship Loan Fund and rewarding employees for their service to the CSU community

STATE OF COLORADO BENEFITS HUB

The State of Colorado Benefits hub has more benefits not necessarily offered by the C2C: Commitment to Campus, including:

- Free admission to state employees at all of our museums and historic sites throughout Colorado.
- Discount Marketplace for a variety of products including travel, health, and financial products.
- Benefit Hub for Healthy Living https://stateofcolorado.benefithub.com/app/home
- Shopping at a discount

EMPLOYEE ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

The EAP is committed to providing equitable and supportive access to wellness resources for CSU employees:

- On-site support
- ComPysch/guidance resources
- SilverCloud

CSU TOTAL COMPENSATION CALCULATOR

- https://hr.colostate.edu/total-compensation-calculator/
- Generate a statement that shows the value of your current CSU benefits by following these steps.
- SOURCE article: What do you really make? New calculator, statement show value of university benefits in addition to your pay