

## Chair Message: February 2015

A note from our chair, Carla Kologie...



Welcome to ERAC's new website!

We hope you will find the information here useful, and we encourage you to explore the site and let us know what you think. It's a work in progress that will continue to take shape over the coming months, but we need you to let us know what works and what needs reworking.

Last spring, ERAC held several focus groups with staff from across campus to determine ERAC's strengths and weaknesses. One common concern that emerged is the lack of communication for, among and with staff. ERAC members took that to heart and embarked on the challenge of creating a website that will provide timely, two-way communication.

As you can see, our Events Calendar will help you to plan your schedules around the events that interest you. You can register for our Knowledge @ Noon series, find the deadlines for joining REACH or order ticket events for our campus and community special events.

For those interested in learning more about ERAC's members, goals and accomplishments, you can find our membership bios and contact information, bylaws, committee descriptions and meeting minutes. We welcome your comments and suggestions and urge you to reach out to individual members you may know, or contact the general ERAC address: [inerc@lehigh.edu](mailto:inerc@lehigh.edu). The site will be monitored weekly, so you should receive a personal reply to your email within two weeks of submissions.

You can find links to various campus departments / groups that ERAC works with in its efforts to promote staff morale, recognition, involvement and communication.

Finally, in launching this new site, we hope you will visit often, if only to complete the "Give a High Five!" form. As staff members committed to increasing staff morale, ERAC has created a program where colleagues are encouraged to acknowledge and thank each other for the things they do each day. Give a High Five allows you to recognize the staff member's efforts by sending a thank you and copying their supervisor. ERAC members believe that, in the short time it takes to complete the form, you can contribute to a more positive campus climate.

ERAC members are dedicated to creating a collegial working environment at Lehigh that highlights staff contributions. But, we need your help in identifying staff successes and challenges. We invite you to contact us with programming ideas as well as your issues, concerns and questions. While we may not have authority to make policy, we can ensure that the staff voice is represented in decision-making. And, while we may not have all the answers you're looking for, chances are we can find the people who do.

We take our responsibility as your elected representatives seriously and look forward to earning your trust through our efforts on your behalf because for ERAC, Staff Matters.