

# STAFF SENATE

ADVOCATE. SERVE. ENGAGE.



## Message from the President

As we approach the end of the year, I want to pause and express my heartfelt gratefulness to each of you. Your commitment, creativity and resilience have made this an extraordinary year for our staff community. Together, we've faced challenges and turned them into opportunities for growth and collaboration.

As I wrap up my fourth month as Staff Senate President, I am filled with gratitude for the more than **4,000 talented and hard-working staff members** who are the backbone of our university. Your dedication ensures that every person and every interaction matters. While UNL faces its share of challenges, I am confident we will navigate these trials together, thanks in large part to the exceptional leadership and collaboration across our campus.

I also want to extend my sincere appreciation to the **Staff Senate Executive Committee—Jerri Harner, Morgan Green McConnell, Jordan Gonzales, Doug Pellatz, and Joann Ross—for their unwavering commitment to ensuring staff voices are heard at decision-making tables.** Their work exemplifies what shared governance should be: collaborative, transparent and impactful.

This year has been marked by significant progress and collective achievements. Here are just a few highlights for which I am thankful:

- **Expanded District Meetings:** Through the efforts of VP of Internal Affairs, Jerri Harner, we've broadened opportunities for staff engagement through district meetings, creating spaces for meaningful dialogue and collaboration.
- **University of Nebraska Staff Advisory Board:** Our close alignment with UNK, UNO, and UNMC staff governance groups continues to strengthen system-wide collaboration, led by VP of External Affairs, Morgan Green-McConnell.
- **Town Hall Feedback Report:** Progress is underway on initiatives from last summer's Town Halls, including expanded wellness resources, holiday shutdown policies and increased staff involvement in budget processes.
- **Having a Seat at the Table:** Through representation on the Academic Planning Committee during the Budget Reduction Process, staff voices were part of critical decisions. Shared governance worked—and that matters.

Read more: <https://go.unl.edu/5up0>



November 2025

Jessie Brophy  
Staff Senate  
President

## What is Staff Senate?

The purpose of the University of Nebraska—Lincoln (UNL) Staff Senate is to be an advisory body on issues, institutional policies, and practices that relate to the staff, to serve as a forum for the exchange of ideas, to promote common interests among the staff, to advocate for staff welfare and development, to suggest revisions and initiatives to improve staff policies, and to participate in the formulation of institutional policy and governance.



## UPCOMING EVENT:

### Full Staff Senate Meeting

January 15, 2026

2:30-4 p.m.

City Union,  
Swanson Auditorium

Subscribe to the Staff Senate Newsletter to receive updates from the staff senate and the latest information on happenings at UNL.

Print this newsletter  
for your office.

Serve as a Senator: Each year, the Staff Senate holds elections for open seats. We would love for you to considering serving alongside us!

Share your Voice with Senators: Have concerns or ideas? Contact us through the Staff Senate contact page. We want to hear from you!



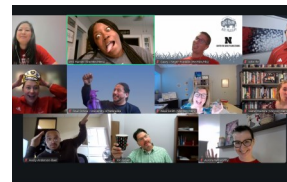
## Grow Your Skills November Professional Development

This November, let's strengthen our university community; register for a professional development session that offers you a chance to connect, grow, and finish the semester strong. <https://go.unl.edu/p7h6>



### UNL Staff Senate Committees Unite!

The University of Nebraska-Lincoln (UNL) Staff Senate is embarking on a collaborative, Senate-wide effort to fortify its internal structure and institutional memory. <https://go.unl.edu/fxh7>



### Celebrate Connection: NCLUDE End-of-Semester gathering

Organizational Development and Training is thrilled to announce the NCLUDE End-of-Semester Gathering, a morning of connection, reflection, and community for all NCLUDE members and anyone curious about joining this vital learning community. <https://go.unl.edu/iqud>

### Listening Table founder to discuss belonging as a daily practice

The University of Nebraska-Lincoln's E.N. Thompson Forum on World Issues, now in its 37th season, continues with "Belonging is a Practice, Not a Place" featuring communication expert Orly Israel. <https://go.unl.edu/vyrs>

### Staff, Faculty, and Students Take a Seat at the Table for UNL Police CALEA Accreditation Review

The University of Nebraska-Lincoln's (UNL) commitment to shared governance and institutional accountability was highlighted on Tuesday, October 14, as representatives from the Staff Senate, ASUN (student government), and Faculty Senate participated in a crucial review for the UNL Police Department's (UNL PD) CALEA re-accreditation. <https://go.unl.edu/wzgg>

### Build Your Campus Network, One Connection at a Time

University of Nebraska-Lincoln employees looking to expand their professional network and engage in valuable peer-to-peer learning now have a new, flexible opportunity: [NCLUDE Networking Sessions](https://go.unl.edu/4f28). <https://go.unl.edu/4f28>

### NCLUDE Anchors Sought for Spring 2026

Are you a university employee eager to make a tangible impact on the culture of community and belonging at UNL? <https://go.unl.edu/swtk>

### Need Help? Text UNLPD Anytime

Whether it's an emergency, you are unable or uncomfortable speaking on the phone, help is just a text (402-472-5552) away. <https://go.unl.edu/yk7w>

### Engage with the Staff Senate!

Are you interested in getting involved with UNL's Staff Senate but not sure where to start?

Here are some ways to connect with the Staff Senate:

- Submit an Article for the Staff Senate Newsletter: Do you have a story, event, or other information to share with staff at UNL? Submit an item for the newsletter .
- Participate in Staff Senate Meetings: Did you know you can attend Staff Senate meetings? Find dates and times on the Upcoming Events calendar on the Staff Senate homepage.