

APRIL 2026

# NUGGETS OF NEWS

News from UNC Charlotte Staff Council

## March 2026 Meeting Recap

The March Staff Council meeting was held on **Wednesday, March 11, 2026** from 3:00-4:00 PM in the Halton Reading Room and Zoom.

- [Meeting Agenda](#)
- [Meeting Minutes](#)

## Upcoming Meeting - April 2026

The next Staff Council meeting will be on **Wednesday, April 8, 2026 from 3:00 - 4:00 PM.**

- Location: Hybrid, Keith Wassum Room (Room 224, Sovi, in the back right corner of the building just past the Market) and Zoom
- **Diedra Harris Lumpkins**, Associate Vice Chancellor for Human Resources and University EEO Officer, will join us to discuss updates regarding HR Connect. This new HR ticketing system will function as a centralized hub for all HR inquiries, significantly simplifying the process for current, former, and prospective employees to receive secure support.

There is a new sign up link for the virtual option that will general a new calendar invite. Click the link below!

[Sign Up Here for our Virtual Monthly Meeting Option!](#)

## UNC Charlotte Staff Council

Chair: **Jessica Waldman**

Vice Chair: **Tammie Lyons**

Secretary: **Pam Erickson**

Treasurer: **Kelly Ortiz**

Communications: **Carrie DaSilva**

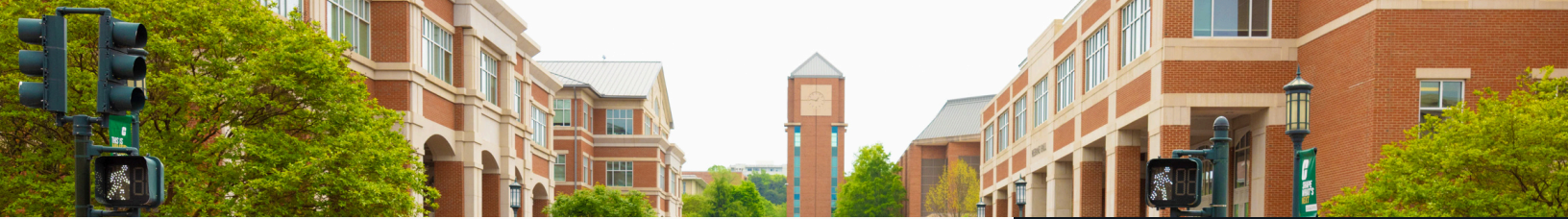
Technology Officer: **Jen Knight**

<https://staffcouncil.charlotte.edu>

[staffcouncil@charlotte.edu](mailto:staffcouncil@charlotte.edu)

## Staff concerns? Let us know!

The Staff Council is dedicated to representing the voices of staff within our community. The Staff Relations Committee addresses issues and concerns related to University policies and procedures. Staff are encouraged to share their concerns by submission of our [webform](#).



## Let's Celebrate Earth Month!

UNC Charlotte's Office of Sustainability has released a full lineup of campus and community events to mark Earth Month. The campus community is invited to take part in signature traditions such as the Earth Day Festival, Campus Beautification Day and Party for the Planet. For a full schedule, locations and updates, visit the [Earth Month website](#).



## Important Dates - April and May 2026

- April 10-11, 2026 - Refresh Weekend - No Classes
- April 11, 2026 - Optional Reschedule Date for Possible Interruptions
- April 29, 2026 - Last day of classes
- April 30, 2026 - [UNC Charlotte Day of Remembrance](#)
- May 7-9, 2026 - [Commencement](#)
- May 25, 2026 - Memorial Day

Visit the [Academic Calendar](#) for the complete calendar and important deadlines.

## Campus Disruptions, Delays and Detours

Stay on top of projects that could affect your commute across campus by [visiting this link](#).

## Campus Connections

### BE NINER READY

The Office of Emergency Management encourages you to Be NinerReady for any campus situation. Visit their [website](#) to access the university's operational status, check the weather, sign up for Niner Alerts and Niner Notices, and learn how to prepare yourself to be Niner Ready.

### UNIVERSITY OMBUDS

If you're looking for a confidential and unbiased resource to address workplace challenges and conflicts, the University Ombuds team is ready to assist you! Visit our Ombuds [website](#) for more information.

### PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

The Staff Council has launched a friendly new Professional Development website just for you! It's packed with great opportunities to grow and learn on campus. Come check it out and see what's available to help you on your journey! To learn more, visit our [website](#).

### POLICE & PUBLIC SAFETY LOG

Stay informed about campus incidents by regularly checking the [Police Log](#) — it's an essential resource for important updates!

## Botanical Gardens Classes and Walks

### Nature Therapy Walk

A way to connect you more deeply to your inner landscapes as well as the world around you.

Date: First Saturday of the month, May 2, 2026, from 9:00 am - 12:00 pm

### Gratitude in the Gardens Walk

The attitude of gratitude - a conscious habit to express thankfulness and appreciation for every part of your life.

Date: First Friday of the month, May 1, 2026, from 12:00 pm - 2:00 pm

## Coffee & Conversations with Staff Council

Coffee & Conversations with Staff Council will take place on April 15 from 7:30 - 10:00am in the Lucas Room, Cone Center. Come meet your Staff Council Area Representatives, Alternates, & Executive Board Members!



## Niner Nation Gives - For the Love of Charlotte

Niner Nation Gives was a massive success with more than \$5.2 million raised and 7,634 gifts! Visit [ninernationgives.charlotte.edu](http://ninernationgives.charlotte.edu) for a recap of this year's campaign.

## Campus Connections

### THE ARTS AT CHARLOTTE

Do you enjoy the arts? The College of Arts + Architecture hosts an impressive array of performances, exhibitions, and college events. Check out their [events calendar](#), reserve your tickets, and stay informed about all the exciting happenings on campus!

### BOTANICAL GARDENS

The mission of UNC Charlotte's Botanical Gardens is to inspire a love for plants and nature through programming, classes, and botanical displays. See what's coming on their [events calendar](#) and [sign up for news](#).

### PERKS AT WORK

Human Resources has compiled a list of "Perks at Work" available for the UNC Charlotte Community. To keep informed about these benefits, you can [subscribe to receive email updates](#).

### OFFICE OF ONEIT EVENTS AND COURSES

Did you know that the Office of OneIT provides training classes for Google applications? If you're facing challenges with Google Sheets, Slides, or want to learn how to use Forms and more, they have a variety of courses available. To view the complete list of offerings and to register, be sure to check out their [website](#)!



## Golden Nuggets

Congratulations to our Golden Nugget Winners! For a complete list of Golden Nugget winners or to nominate a colleague, please visit our [website](#).

## Staff Council Elections 2026-2027

Nominations for Staff Council Elections are open!

Positions open for nominations include:

- Executive Board
  - Chair
  - Secretary
  - Communications
- Area Representatives Even Areas
- Area Alternates

Visit this [link](#) to submit your nominations. The deadline for nominations is Friday, April 24th. Voting will begin May 13th, 2026.

## Congratulations 2026 Staff Employees of the Year

The April 6<sup>th</sup> edition of *Niner Insider* featured six outstanding 2026 Staff Employee of the Year Award recipients. Congratulations to **Johnna Watson**, Devotion to Duty Award, **Tarek Elshayeb** and **Denise Medeiros**, Human Relations Award, **Kory Trosclair**, Innovation Award, **Katie Tomer**, Community and Public Service Award and **Anna Parks**, Safety and Heroism Award.

[Visit Inside UNC Charlotte to read the article](#) - there are some great photos too!

## Campus Connections

### 49ER LAUNDRY

Staff members can utilize the on-campus dry cleaning service provided by [49er Laundry](#). You can drop off your dry cleaning or laundry at one of the laundry lockers, and your freshly cleaned garments will be returned by the next business day.

### DINING SERVICES FIVE BLOCK FEAST

Staff can purchase five meals for \$40 for all-you-can-eat dining at SoVi and the renovated Social 704 during summer. This offers budget-friendly meals with colleagues, saving 35% compared to the regular lunch price of \$12.25. For more information, visit the [Auxiliary Services](#) website and check the Optional Dining Account link.

### BOOKSTORE DISCOUNTS

[Barnes & Noble Charlotte](#), located in the Popp Martin Student Union, provides a 20% discount on all merchandise for faculty and staff presenting a university ID. This discount is available anytime, allowing you to grab some fantastic branded apparel and display your Niner pride! Additionally, once a year in the fall, typically on Reading Day in December, the discount rises to 30%—ideal for stocking up or doing your holiday shopping!

## Celebrate 4/9 Day at the Bookstore

Join the annual school spirit celebration at Barnes & Noble Charlotte in the Popp Martin Student Union. Enjoy games, snacks and special giveaways.

**Thursday, April 9, 2026**  
**11AM to 1PM**

You can also take advantage of 10% off purchases at the bookstore (some exclusions apply). Use code **CELEBRATE26** at checkout in store **and** online.



## Campus Connections

### ATHLETIC TICKETS

UNC Charlotte Faculty and Staff are eligible for the following [ticket benefits](#) to Charlotte 49ers athletic events:

- Season Ticket Offers
- Single Game Ticket Offers

Ticket prices are valid for current faculty & staff and covers spouses and dependents. If you have questions or need assistance please stop by the 49ers Ticket Office at Halton Arena, call 704-687-4949 or email [niner@charlotte.edu](mailto:niner@charlotte.edu).

### J. MURREY ATKINS LIBRARY - FACULTY AND STAFF

Atkins Library offers fantastic benefits for faculty and staff. Here are just a few:

- [Item Delivery](#)
- [Interlibrary Loan and Document Delivery](#)
- [Exhibits and Projects](#)

### ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH AND SAFETY

Environmental Health and Safety at Charlotte provides various opportunities for participation. Explore their [website](#) to discover a range of services, resources, education, and training options available!



## Niner Night at Truist Field: Charlotte 49ers vs Clemson Tigers

Batter up! Be part of the excitement and join us in the Piedmont Natural Gas picnic area for Niner Night at Truist Field as the 49ers take on the Clemson Tigers.

## Gallery Reception: 1<sup>st</sup> Biennial Exhibition of Recent Acquisitions to the UNC Charlotte Art Collection

Generated through student research within the art history program, this exhibition showcases the latest acquisitions of visual art from five university colleges: CHES, CHHS, COA+A, COE and the Honors College. Additionally, contributions have been made by Atkins Library, the University Foundation, and the Lemmond-Helms Artist Residency House.

The 38 works on display reflect the university's commitment to local and regional collaborations, faculty research, and its ongoing leadership in the arts throughout North Carolina.

The reception is Thursday, April 16, 2026 from 5:30PM to 7:30PM in the Popp Martin Student Union Gallery. The exhibition will be open for viewing through April 25th.

For more exciting opportunities to enjoy the arts at UNC Charlotte, visit the College of Arts + Architecture Events and Exhibitions [website](#)!

## Professional Development Opportunities for Staff

Visit the Staff Council [website](#) for upcoming professional development events, resources and links.

## Campus Connections

### OFFICE OF SUSTAINABILITY EVENTS

Events with a sustainability focus occur year-round. To see what's coming up, visit [the Office of Sustainability's website](#).

### 49ER ALUMNI CAMPUS EMPLOYEE (ACE) NETWORK

Are you an ACE? The ACE Network aims to establish a platform where alumni employees can connect, volunteer, and advance their careers. It fosters the 49er spirit among alumni across all ages, divisions, and professions. Additionally, the network offers networking opportunities through various programs, events, activities, community service initiatives, and professional development training.

[Discover Alumni Association events here!](#)

### INTERNATIONAL COFFEE HOUR

[International Coffee Hour](#) is one of the ISSO's longest running and most popular programs. Join us to meet people from around the world, play games, and enjoy great conversations. Not much of a talker? Then just relax and play along with a tasty, homemade beverage. Visit the ISSO website for upcoming dates!