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Monitor Newsletter June 26, 2008

Bowling Green State University

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Tustees approve budgets, upgrades

The board of trustees approved the 2009 fiscal year budgets, including a \$275.7 million educational budget for main campus and a \$13.5 million educational budget for BGSU Firelands, when it met yesterday (June 25).

The educational budget contains a 1.5 percent increase in the salary pool for faculty, administrative and classified staff as well as a \$500,000 pool for promotion, tenure and market-pool adjustments.

For the third year in a row, annual tuition and fees for an entering first-year student remains at \$9,060.

Sheri Stoll, vice president for finance and administration and chief financial officer, said the University is "pleased and appreciative" that the governor and state legislature have maintained their pledge of support for higher education in Ohio.

During the coming fiscal year, state support for main campus is projected to increase by \$7.3 million, or 9.5 percent. However, a drop in enrollment of about 400 undergraduates as compared to 2008 has contributed to a decrease in University revenue of \$3.3 million for fiscal year 2009. When added to last year's drop of 350 undergraduates from 2007 numbers, BGSU has lost more than \$6 million in instructional support over the two-year period, Stoll said.

"We're now at about 63 percent of our budget coming from tuition and fees," she said.

For the first time in many years, public higher education in Ohio was spared a midyear reduction in fiscal year 2008, while other state agencies did see their budgets trimmed due to the difficult economic times.

"The state is doing what it can to help our students and their families afford a college education, and we are deeply appreciative. We share the same goal, and that is to enable more families to send their children to college," Stoll noted.

She warned, however, that the national and state economic situation remains uncertain, citing rising unemployment and gas prices and a sharp drop in consumer confidence and retail and industrial output. The greatest challenges facing the University, Stoll said, are keeping salaries competitive and dealing with increased costs for health care and purchased utilities, primarily natural gas and electricity.

The University is required to have a balanced budget, so divisions must all find areas in which to cut back, she said. Reductions made for the coming year will be permanent, she noted.

President Ribeau said, "We're in very, very difficult budget times in the state of Ohio, and I don't expect we'll see any immediate improvement. We need to find ways to generate revenue and keep costs down. (Incoming interim president) Dr. Cartwright has all the information and will be working with the leadership team.

"We'll balance the budget, but at great pain," he said, predicting there will be faculty positions unfilled and graduate assistantships reduced, among other results of the deficit.

Upgrades and renovations planned, fees approved

In addition to the educational budgets, the trustees approved \$34.7 million for general fee and auxiliary budgets, \$29.9 million for residence halls, dining halls and the Residential Computing Connection, and \$15.3 million for other miscellaneous budgets for main campus.

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Among special fees okayed by the board is a \$10 annual increase, from \$70 to \$80, for auto registration. Revenue generated by the increase will fund parking repairs and cover greater operating costs for the University shuttle system. "Parking rates at BGSU are extremely modest and at the low end compared to our sister institutions," Stoll commented.

Also, a new, \$50 vending fee per semester, equivalent to approximately \$3 per week, will provide residential students with unlimited laundry service. The pre-paid laundry fee eliminates coin collection and expensive capital outlay for electronic point-of-sale devices and ongoing transaction fees associated with that equipment, while enhancing convenience for students.

Modest fee increases for residence hall and dining services for the 2008-09 academic year were set by the board in February. Students continue to have a variety of options to choose from, with rates depending on the options selected. Room rates increased by an average of 2.83 percent, while meal-plan rate went up an average of 4.73 percent.

The trustees also approved:

- Upgrades to the 11 small Greek units on the northwest side of the Bowen-Thompson Student Union, budgeted for \$3,200,000.
- Improvements to public spaces in Harshman/Kreischer residence halls, predicted to take place over the course of the next two summers (2009 and 2010). The estimated cost of the project is \$1,650,000.
- Other special fees, including a \$35 graduation fee, bursar-related fees, and an \$8 increase in the technology fee for residential students. In addition, there were special fee increases for special courses or travel.

Academic Charter amended

The board approved three amendments to the Academic Charter, as recommended by Faculty Senate. The amendments:

- Link tenure and promotion to associate professor, eliminating the need for two separate actions. The move was proposed by Provost Shirley Baugher and passed by Faculty Senate April 1.
- Call for the provost/vice president for academic affairs to be copied on communications any time an interpretation of the charter has been requested and whenever violations of the charter have been alleged. The senate passed the measure on March 11.

For interpretations, a written request must be submitted to the senate chair, who will provide a copy of the request to the provost. The opinion arrived at by the Senate Executive Committee, in consultation with the president, will then also be provided to the provost as well as to the Committee on Amendments and Bylaws.

For violations, the chair of the senate will provide a written copy of the alleged violation to the provost. If the Senate Executive Committee, in consultation with the president, determines a violation has indeed occurred, the appropriate action to achieve compliance with the charter will be communicated to the person in violation of the charter and to the provost.

- Substantially revise the current Grievance Arbitration Procedure in the charter to make it more clear and user-friendly. The move was passed overwhelmingly by the senate on April 29.

New director named

The hiring with tenure of Dr. Derek Mason as director of the School of Social Work in the College of Health and Human Services was also approved by the board. An associate dean and division head for the Central and Northern Region (Edmonton) faculty of social work at the University of Calgary, Canada, Mason has also taught at Utah State University (where he was president of Faculty Senate) and at Nebraska State University.

Mason follows Dr. Glenn Shields, who recently retired, as director of the school.



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Dobb honored

Also at the meeting, the title of University Trustee Professor was conferred on Executive Vice President Linda Dobb, who is also secretary to the board. "It's greatly deserved," commented Michael Marsh, board chair.

Officers elected

Trustee John Harbal was elected chair of the board, Robert Sebo vice chair and Dobb re-elected secretary. The board executive committee will comprise Marsh, Harbal, Sebo and John Moore. Outgoing chair Marsh has another year on his term; the meeting was the final one for Trustee Michael Wilcox.

BGSU names arts center of excellence, approves building of arts center

BGSU has named the arts as the first of its "centers of excellence"—a move approved by the trustees Wednesday. The choice was self-evident, officials said, based on the University's having strong, collaborative programs in visual arts, creative writing, music, dance, theatre and film that prepare students for careers. The arts also have an impact beyond BGSU: A 2007 study by the Center for Regional Development showed that the arts and arts-led industries contribute more than \$2 billion per year to northwest Ohio.

The governor's 10-year Strategic Plan for Higher Education calls for universities to identify areas of excellence, saying these areas "should serve as an organizing system for the best or unique programs on one campus, whenever possible be multidisciplinary and demonstrate contribution to the economy of the region and state." The plan also says any areas identified as excellent should be of sufficient quality to attract students and faculty. Ohio's four-year public universities must submit their recommendations for their centers of excellence by December 2009.

A leader in many areas of the arts, BGSU is known equally for traditional and cutting-edge programs, as well as for its arts outreach to the community, both from main campus and BGSU Firelands. The University formally recognized the importance of the arts to a well-rounded education when it made "embracing the arts" a component of the Academic Plan in 2003 and embedded it in the BG Perspective curriculum.

The state strategic plan also calls for any proposed centers of excellence to be well supported by evidence. Factors cited by the trustees included:

- BGSU Firelands is home to the award-winning Caryl Crane Children's Theatre, which has brought high-quality performances to the region for many years and provides opportunities for students and community members to participate. The Firelands Writing Center has an extensive list of publications featuring area writers.
- The College of Musical Arts, home of the MidAmerican Center for Contemporary Music and one of the only places in the country to offer a doctorate in contemporary music, as well as degree programs in world music. It attracts students from around the world.
- The Creative Writing Program, one of the country's oldest, is led by nationally known writers and poets and publishes the award-winning Mid-American Review.
- The School of Art has become a national leader in the digital arts and new media, with students finding jobs in leading studios.
- Theatre and film faculty and students maintain an active schedule of productions and studies, and have been involved in a number of innovative collaborations across the country. The department also oversees the Huron Playhouse summer theatre, in operation for a record 60 years.

The synergy among the arts and academics on campus, epitomized by the campus Arts Roundtable, is a notable characteristic of BGSU, University officials noted. The Arts Village Residential Community and the arts management minor are but two concrete examples of student opportunities to integrate the two.



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Wolfe Center to be focal point for campus arts community

The trustees also authorized construction to proceed on the Wolfe Center for the Arts, which will further enhance BGSU's stature as a center of excellence in the arts.

The facility, to be located on the site of the former Saddlemire Student Services Building, will bridge the College of Musical Arts and the Fine Arts Center and will also be the new home of the Department of Theatre and Film. It will encompass performance, design and instructional spaces.

Construction is projected to begin in April 2009, with completion in January 2011. The cost for the facility is estimated at \$40,750,000, including the roadway and parking (\$2,500,000). Leadership for the project was provided by Frederic and Mary Wolfe of Perrysburg, along with state capital appropriations in the amount of \$38,250,000.

Clean, sweeping lines and light-filled spaces characterize the design of the new arts center, the roughly 93,000 square foot facility that will complete the campus arts neighborhood. Its soaring "fly tower" will create an iconic identity for the arts.

The proposed building has been designed by the Norwegian architecture firm Snøhetta and will be its first American project to be completed. Snøhetta has projects from Europe to the Middle East, among them a new opera house that has just opened in Oslo. The firm has recently been chosen to design a new cultural center for the king of Saudi Arabia. To learn more about the award-winning company and view its designs, visit <http://www.snoarc.no/#/>.

The Collaborative, a Toledo-based firm, is the local partner on the project, and Ryan Miller of the campus design and construction office is the project manager.

The ground-floor "front of house" will include a 400-seat main theater, a 200-seat Actors Theater and a choral rehearsal room. The main theater, with its steeply raked seats and only 48 feet from the front of the stage to the last row on the ground floor, will provide an intimate performance setting. The "fly tower" will permit the raising and lowering of scenery and allow for more elaborate productions than in existing campus spaces.

The "back of house" is designed to be a "true teaching space," according to the architects, comprising scene and costume shops, with plenty of room for instruction to take place while production work is going on—a great improvement over the current situation.

A key feature of the Wolfe Center design is a glassed-in walkway that bisects the front and back halves, connecting the Fine Arts Center and the Moore Musical Arts Center and allowing pedestrians to view the action in the workshops and classrooms.

The second floor will house academic offices for theatre and film faculty, along with instructional classrooms, digital design and post-production film labs, computer labs and student workstations.

In addition, a number of green initiatives have been included in the building design to reduce energy costs and make use of environmentally friendly paints and finishes.

BGSU sponsors Toledo School for the Arts

June also marks the beginning of BGSU's sponsorship of the Toledo School for the Arts (TSA). Last November, the board authorized the president and provost to negotiate a contract between the University and the TSA for Bowling Green to become a sponsor of the public community school in downtown Toledo, effective this month.

The collaboration is expected to be mutually beneficial. It will allow the TSA to serve as a host site for practical demonstration of BGSU teaching methods, educational technology and other aspects of teacher preparation while giving BGSU faculty and students access to a talented group of students and teachers with whom to collaborate.



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Trustees say farewell to Ribeau, welcome interim Cartwright

President Sidney Ribeau attended his last BGSU Board of Trustees meeting yesterday (June 25). Members of the board expressed appreciation for all he has done for the University over his 13-year tenure. The president leaves Aug. 1 to become head of Howard University.

Also praising Ribeau was Dr. Carol Cartwright, BGSU's interim president, who will officially begin her duties July 21. "I have a great deal of respect for what President Ribeau has created here, and I value the confidence the board of trustees has placed in me to carry this legacy forward," said the former president of Kent State University.

"All of you will have a great deal of responsibility to create the kind of institution into which we can welcome a new leader about a year from now," she told those gathered. That means working together to deal with the "realities we will face every single day," she said.

Ribeau returned the compliment to Cartwright, saying he had worked with her for 13 years, "but I've been an admirer of hers even longer than that, from her time at Penn State and UC-Davis. She has sound academic values and a commitment to valuing people that make her very, very special."

Ribeau recalled his first trustees meeting 13 years ago in McFall Assembly Room, the same spot as yesterday's meeting. Though most of the players have changed, "one thing is consistent: This is Bowling Green State University. That's what lives beyond the careers of each of us," he said. While he and the University have had their ups and downs, he said, "We got it right more than we got it wrong."

Michael Marsh, chair of the trustees, told Ribeau that from the very beginning he had "brought a sense of pride to us," recalling that one of the first orders of business was the Building Community project. Nightly meetings over pizza and Coke at Ribeau's home ("He was a bachelor then," Marsh quipped.) with students, faculty and community members led to the initiative that helped refocus BGSU's outlook in a more collaborative, hopeful and aspirational direction. "You had to believe to succeed" was the watchword, Marsh remembered.

"You've led us on a wonderful journey" toward being the "premier learning community in Ohio," he told Ribeau. Marsh recalled overhearing former Ohio Board of Regents Chancellor Roderick Chu at his retirement party referring to BGSU as the "secret jewel in Ohio."

"It's been an amazing transformation," Marsh said.

BGSU alum featured on home-buying reality show

BGSU graduate Michael Wickert and his twin brother, Matthew, got a glimpse of the spotlight during the filming of "Property Virgins," a reality show airing on HGTV.

"Property Virgins" showcases several first-time buyers during the home-buying process.

"Twin Trouble," the episode featuring Michael and his brother, will air at 10 p.m. Sunday (June 29). Additional showings will be at 2 a.m. Monday (June 30), 6:30 p.m. July 20, 11 p.m. Aug. 7 and 3 a.m. Aug. 8.

Laughing, Wickert said he and his brother were chosen for the show because they're "unique." Even though he was joking, he may have been correct. "Property Virgins" typically focuses on young couples who are either dating or married, and the twin brothers gave the show a different spin, he explained.

Michael received an environmental policy and analysis degree from Bowling Green in 2002.



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He works as an environmental scientist at URS Corp. in Cincinnati.

Although filming was a "surreal experience," Wickert said, he is glad it's over. They would typically start in the early morning and finish around 11 p.m.

Describing the experience, he said it was very different having cameras follow him. They spent up to four hours filming in houses that would ordinarily have taken him and his brother 10 minutes to view on their own. Because it was such a lengthy process, the camera crew didn't follow him through all 35 viewings, only filming at three or four of the houses.

For Michael, the hardest part of the experience was making the final decision on a house. As the network describes the episode, "Twin brothers are ready to invest in a house together, but they don't see eye-to-eye."

"We're similar in many ways but we're also polar opposites," Michael said. Because they each have different tastes, they argued a lot before coming to a compromise, he said.

The brothers eventually decided on a house in Hyde Park, the same neighborhood their parents reside in.

Kassa to address Ethiopian public health as Fulbright Scholar

After several years of building ties with universities and agencies in Ethiopia, Dr. Hailu Kassa, public and allied health, will be able to expand his efforts on behalf of his native country when he returns in August as a Fulbright Scholar.

Kassa will spend 10 months in the capital, Addis Ababa. "I laid the groundwork in 2002 when I went on a fact-finding mission through a faculty research grant," Kassa said. Now he hopes to "cement the relationship" by helping the government and universities develop long-term plans for public health initiatives. Another objective is to aid in the search for grant funding for health-related projects, from organizations such as the United Nations and the U.S. Agency for International Development and from U.S. institutions for collaborations with Ethiopian institutions.

He has been the catalyst for a series of visits to Ethiopia by BGSU faculty members. Following his first visit, Kassa returned in 2003 with Drs. Charles (Chris) Keil and Gary Silverman, environmental health, to meet and establish links with officials in the government and at Addis Ababa University. He and Keil later offered a two-week seminar on air quality for faculty at regional universities and employees of the Ethiopian equivalent of the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). Based on that seminar, Keil gave two similar seminars at Jimma University, southwest of the capital. Last December, Kassa returned once again for a two-week visit to Addis Ababa University to teach graduate students in environmental and occupational health.

"Now I would like to continue to work and find internships for students and opportunities for faculty exchanges between BGSU and Ethiopia," he said.

Kassa joined the BGSU faculty in 2000. A former sanitarian with the Toledo-Lucas County Board of Health, he has partnered with Silverman in 2004 and 2007 on Ohio and U.S. EPA-funded projects aimed at reducing lead poisoning in urban and rural homes in Toledo and northwest Ohio.

He is not the only one in his family helping Ethiopia. His daughter Robin, a 2004 BGSU alumna who is pursuing her master of public health in epidemiology degree at the University of Washington-Seattle, has founded a nongovernmental organization named Tesfa, meaning "hope," that provides financial assistance to purchase books and other school essentials and to care for orphaned Ethiopian children.



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Boys State hears from governor

Ohio Gov. Ted Strickland discussed the importance of government, and the uniqueness of the American democratic system, in a civics lesson of sorts June 17 for delegates to Buckeye Boys State at BGSU.

Among Strickland's listeners were his Boys State counterpart, Nicholas Messenger (left) of Bowling Green, and Boys State Lt. Gov. Kevin D. Justice Jr. of Lorain (right).

They are among the hundreds of rising high school seniors selected by American Legion posts statewide to participate in Boys State, which BGSU has hosted since 1978. This year's program concluded yesterday (June 22).

Messenger is the first Bowling Green High School student to be elected governor of the annual mock government program since its founding in 1936.

'Centers of excellence' key to economy: Fingerhut

Gov. Ted Strickland's administration has placed higher education at the center of Ohio's re-birth and future, and the excellence it demonstrates will retain and attract the kind of people and business that can revitalize the economy, Ohio Board of Regents Chancellor Eric Fingerhut told a gathering of university representatives from northwest Ohio June 17.

In a "community conversation," held at the University of Toledo, a panel of state and local representatives, higher education officials, a UT student and a recent UT graduate discussed the governor's 10-year Strategic Plan for Higher Education. The specific topic for the event, *one of several Fingerhut is conducting across the state, was the centers of excellence called for in the plan.*

While he did not provide significant guidance in how institutions are to determine their centers of excellence or how many should be expected from each, the chancellor said it is clear that universities must "all provide a comprehensive, quality education with all the disciplines," noting that is a different mission from community colleges and regional campuses, and one which gives students exposure to all fields.

Each institution must also identify and build on its programs that have national and international ranking and can serve as magnets to attract talent and investment.

"What has the potential to be that type of center of excellence?" he asked. The report has set *benchmarks by which institutions can judge their programs, he said.*

The deadline for Ohio's four-year public universities to submit their recommendations for their Centers of Excellence is December 2009, noted Sandra MacNevin, associate vice president for governmental relations, following the meeting. BGSU faculty, staff, students, administrators and board members will thus have about a year to assess and identify proposed centers of excellence for BGSU, she said.

"These centers of excellence are a core element of the plan," Fingerhut said. "We can no longer afford to compete against each other," which by diluting resources can only result in a mediocre system. The legislature will invest in collaborative efforts, and the state's greatest success will come from each institution focusing on its strengths, he said.

"Throughout history, excellence has always been the best seller," commented panelist Robert Savage, founder of Savage and Associates, a Toledo financial planning and insurance firm, and former trustee of both BGSU and UT. Savage cited the development of alternative energy as a hallmark of the type of research that will attract jobs to northwest Ohio and bring attention to the area. "We need to keep putting together these incubators," he said.

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In response to discussion about technology and research, several audience members and one panelist, UT junior Betsy Yeary, expressed concern that the humanities would be overlooked and undervalued in the move toward the centers of excellence. "High quality education must prepare students for a lifetime of learning opportunities" by giving them a wide range of skills and expanding their creativity, said Yeary, a theatre major.

Ohio Rep. Peter Ujvagi responded that while he heartily agreed with her, he did not think that the sciences and humanities were mutually exclusive. Creative and critical thinking, he said, are hallmarks of American education envied by other countries that might produce more engineers and scientists but do not foster those kinds of intellectual skills. "We will never have centers of excellence in any discipline unless we have a strong basis in core courses," he said, adding that the state now has a "unique opportunity," after years of citizen dissatisfaction with legislative support for higher education, to move forward.

Fingerhut also commented that science is one of the most creative of endeavors, since it revolves around problem solving.

He also re-emphasized the importance of education's role in job creation. "Support for state universities comes from tax-base dollars, and tax dollars come from people who are working, so we must grow the tax base of the state."

Basis and philosophy of plan

At the heart of the strategic plan is raising the educational attainment of Ohio citizens, Fingerhut said. He noted that studies indicate this is the key predictor of a city, state, region or even country's economic success. A report compiled by the Regents shows that the state is not competitive in educational attainment or preparation of its citizens for college, said OBOR member James Tuschman. Further, Ohio's institutions should improve productivity and will need more state, federal and private investment to support the additional 230,000 students the plan calls for in the next 10 years. While Ohio has made progress, the study found, further investments are also needed in research and technology transfer.

The state education system has the potential to meet the needs of the 21st century, but Ohio institutions need to improve their focus on their core strengths, re-position themselves to serve more students and increase collaboration, Tuschman said.

Three major goals emerged from the study, Fingerhut said: Graduate more students, keep them in the state, and attract new people here. "We need to be a net importer of talent," he said.

IN BRIEF**Mercer Road work starts Monday**

Work on repairing and repaving Mercer Road between Poe Road and just short of Wooster Street will begin Monday (June 30) and should take about four weeks. Plans calls for the project to be completed before BGSU students return.

Construction may force the closure of Mercer between Poe Road and Merry Avenue.

Pedestrian-activated crosswalks at Alumni Drive and Ridge Street will be created.

Watch Fourth of July fireworks at 'The Doyt'

Doyt L. Perry Stadium will once again be the site for the annual Bowling Green community-Fourth of July fireworks.

"We are glad to have the opportunity to partner with the community for this holiday celebra-



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tion," said BGSU Director of Athletics Greg Christopher. "This year's event is even larger in scale as we celebrate not only our nation's freedom, but also the city of Bowling Green's 175th anniversary."

The Perry Stadium gates will open at 6:30 p.m. on Friday, July 4. The field will be open to the public until 8:30 p.m. Fans are welcome to bring footballs or Frisbees or simply walk on the FieldTurf.

A free concert by members of the Bowling Green Community Band, under the direction of Nick Ezzone, will begin at 8:30 p.m. The fireworks are scheduled to follow at approximately 9:45 p.m.

No outside food, beverages or sparklers will be allowed into the stadium. The stadium concession stands will be open to the public.

For more information on the Fourth of July event, contact the Bowling Green Chamber of Commerce at 419-353-7945 or www.bgchamber.net.

CALENDAR

Monday, June 23

Bingo, noon-1:30 p.m., Falcon's Nest, Bowen-Thompson Student Union.

Wednesday, June 25

Classified Staff Council, 10 a.m., 316 Union.

Board of Trustees, 1 p.m., 308 Union.

Dissertation and Thesis Support Group, 1:30-3 p.m., 422 Conklin Hall. No registration needed. Call the Counseling Center at 2-2081 for more information.

Thursday, June 26

Grilling on the Green, Mediterranean Picnic, 11:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m., patio outside Falcon's Nest, Union.

Thursday, July 3

Administrative Staff Council, 1:30-3 p.m., 207 Union.

Friday, July 4

Independence Day. Classes canceled, offices closed.

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Independence Day. Classes canceled, offices closed.

Continuing Events Through June 27

Summer Music Institutes, musical theater (through June 28), recording studio and Super Sax camps, Moore Musical Arts Center.

July 1-5

Summer Theater, "Brigadoon," 8 p.m. nightly, Huron Playhouse, McCormick School, Ohio Street, Huron. Tickets are \$12 for students and senior citizens, \$14 for other adults, \$9 for children under 12, and \$11 for groups of 15 or more. Season passes are \$55. For reservations, call 419-433-4744.



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FACULTY

Romance Languages. Visiting Assistant Professor. Call Beatrice Guenther, 2-2667. Deadline: July 26.

Labor Postings

<http://international.bgsu.edu/index.php?x=facinfohires>

Contact the Office of Human Resources at 419-372-8421 for information regarding classified and administrative positions. Position vacancy announcements may be viewed by visiting the HR Web site at www.bgsu.edu/offices/ohr/.

Employees wishing to apply for these positions must sign a "Request for Transfer" form

and attach an updated resume or data sheet. This information must be turned in to Human Resources by the job deadline.

CLASSIFIED

On-campus classified:

www.bgsu.edu/offices/ohr/employment/BGSU_only/page11151.html

Off-campus classified:

www.bgsu.edu/offices/ohr/employment/cl_staff/page11145.html

ADMINISTRATIVE

www.bgsu.edu/offices/ohr/employment/adm_staff/page11137.html

OBITUARY

There were no obituaries this week.

