

ANR STAFF ASSEMBLY CURRENT, Vol. 2, No. 1

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Staff Assembly Current e-news: Call for Mentors, education reimbursement makes a difference

This is your monthly Staff Assembly e-newsletter, distributed on the second Tuesday of each month (read archived [past issues](#)). As staff members at UC Agriculture and Natural Resources, you are ALL part of [UC ANR Staff Assembly](#). We on the [Staff Assembly Council](#) help advise senior leadership and advocate on your behalf, and we also organize programs and events that promote your professional development and personal growth. (Note: Academics are members of our counterpart entity, Academic Assembly.)

We need supportive Staff Mentors for the UC ANR mentorship program

With more than 100 new employees joining UC ANR in the past year, there is an extremely high demand for mentors in the fifth annual [ANR Mentorship Program](#).

ANR Learning & Development is currently seeking volunteers (both staff and academics) for the nine-month program, which begins in late February and runs through November. Volunteers will help foster personal and professional growth by mentoring a new staff or academic employee.

[Complete this survey to apply.](#)

While mentors listen to and share knowledge and insights with their mentees, they also report that they learn a lot about themselves during the process, said Jodi Azulai, Learning & Development coordinator. Learn more about [what it means to be a mentor](#).

Mentors are asked to commit to an online orientation, monthly phone/video call check-ins with mentees, and three in-person group sessions.

Apply: <https://surveys.ucanr.edu/survey.cfm?surveynumber=25208>

Note that employees who have previously served as a mentor, and who would like to volunteer again, do not need to fill out the survey. Email Jodi at jlazulai@ucanr.edu to express your interest for the coming year.

If selected as a mentor in the 2023 program, you will be contacted by Learning & Development on next steps. Please reach out to Jodi (jlazulai@ucanr.edu) if you have any questions.

Staff member encourages peers to apply for education reimbursement

While \$499 might not constitute a full ride to a four-year college, Dorrel Chand – a payroll analyst at UC ANR’s Business Operations Center – says staff should not discount the value of the [education reimbursement program](#), administered by [UC ANR Staff Assembly](#).

Chand said she used her funds for books that she needed for her bachelor of science in management (BSM) program – a key step in honing her skills and achieving her professional development goals.

“I would encourage all my UC ANR colleagues to definitely apply for the reimbursement program if you are in school,” she said. “This is something that we qualify for as UC ANR employees.”

All ANR career staff employees (represented and non-represented) who have completed the probationary period are eligible to apply for funds from the education reimbursement program, as well as all UCCE County paid staff employees in good standing.

In addition to relevant books and materials, reimbursements may be used for courses/tuition/registration fees for required certification(s); courses/tuition/registration required for degree attainment if related to the current position or career development; or registration fees for seminars and workshops (excluding travel).

Chand added that the application process is “very easy.” “It took me less than 30 minutes to prep, since everything I needed was online and easy to access,” she said.

The next reimbursement cycle runs through April 15 (applications must be submitted by close of business on that date). For full details on eligibility, requirements and instructions to apply, visit: https://staffassembly.ucanr.edu/Subcommittees/Education_Reimbursement/

If you have questions, please contact Education Reimbursement Chair Rosa Vargas at rivargas@ucanr.edu.

TOMORROW: Midyear check-in with University of California staff

Staff across the UC are invited to join an online “midyear check-in” with UC Administrative Management Professionals (UC AMP), the Staff Advisor to the Regents and the Council of UC Staff Assemblies (CUCSA) – of which UC ANR Staff Assembly is a part.

Tomorrow, Jan. 11, at 12:05 p.m., leaders from each organization will share work, priorities and opportunities to engage this year. The conversation will feature:

- * Michael Austin, Chair of UC AMP
- * Priya Lakireddy, UC Staff Advisor to the Regents
- * Dennis McIver, Chair of CUCSA

There will also be a short Q&A session. Participants can register for the virtual session at: <https://bit.ly/ucstaffjan22>.

Submissions for future issues of Staff Assembly Current

We invite you to submit brief notices (150 words or less), directly related to Staff Assembly-led topics and programs, for inclusion in future issues of the Current. It will go out every month on the second Tuesday. Deadline for submissions is the last day of the previous month. Please ensure your item is relevant to all (or nearly all) UC ANR staff.

Email your submissions to Mike Hsu, SAC communications chair, at mjhsu@ucanr.edu. Thank you!