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UNOPA

Press

Monthly Newsletter

unopa.unl.edu

Upcoming Events

****All events are PSP eligible.****

***General Membership Meeting**
PD: AI 2nd edition
 January 13, 2026 | 12:00pm
 227 Carolyn Pope, City Campus

***PD Opportunity**
Digital Accessibility
 January 20, 2026 | 10:00am
 Zoom link: <https://unl.zoom.us/j/92916269725?from=addon>
 Meeting ID: 929 1626 9725
 PH: 17193594580,,92916269725# US

***General Membership Meeting**
PD: Chair Yoga & Sound Bath
 February 10, 2026 | 12:00pm
 Arbor Suite, East Campus Union

***General Membership Meeting**
PD: Active Shooter Preparedness
 March 10, 2026 | 12:00pm
 Chimney Rock Rm, CC Union

***General Membership Meeting**
Business: Awards Ceremony
 April 14, 2026 | 12:00pm
 227 Carolyn Pope, City Campus
 LUNCH PROVIDED
****NOTE location change****

***General Membership Meeting**
Installation of Officers
 May 12, 2026 | 12:00pm
 TBD



Letter from the President

Jodie Barnes, CEOE

Hello all,

As the end of the year comes roaring up, I wanted to give a few updates on what we have been up to! Our planning committee has brought you The Productive Employee and Introducing your Boss to UNOPA, both presented by Celeste Spier. Wonderful PD!! Upcoming we have AI training with member Mel Sedlacek in January, Chair Yoga and Sound Bath Meditation in February from Campus Rec, along with our Elections and finally Active Shooter Preparedness with UNL PD in March. Please look at our events page and mark your calendars! <https://unopa.unl.edu/meetings-and-events/>

For the President's charity, I have chosen The People's City Mission. This year, the board served lunch on December 11 and provided them with the check from UNOPA. Sometime in spring, as an organization, we will be volunteering to help sort at the Distribution site, please look for that in the coming months. I know there are numerous other ways to help them out if you are looking. Check out the donation information here: <https://pcmlincoln.org/donate/#our-needs>

Holidays can be hard for so many, please take a moment for yourself, your family and friends to remind all, this is a time to come together, a celebration, no matter what that looks like for you and yours, my only wish is that you get to spend this time with your loved ones.

Please take some time to check out our National organization, NAEOP, <https://www.naeop.org/>. Their website has many ways to discover NAEOP by getting involved, Professional Development and networking. If you would like to talk with someone about becoming a member or the many things NAEOP can do for you, please reach out to myself, your president, Christina Franklin NAEOP VP and/or for learning how to obtain your PSP/CEOE, UNOPA's PSP chair Mirhuanda Meeks.

Due to numerous scheduling issues, we made the decision to cancel our Holiday dinner this year. I apologize for this and hopefully we will find times in the spring semester to get together more.

Thank you, and Happy Holidays
 Jodie Barnes, CEOE
 President, UNOPA



President's Charity People's City Mission Lincoln, Nebraska

Our President, Jodie Barnes, CEOE, has chosen People's City Mission as the President's Charity for the year. On December 11 the UNOPA Board served lunch and a donation check was given. In the next few months, a request will be made to the membership to help provide items for the residents of the Mission. Please be watching your email for this information. Thank you in advance for your generosity. *See the "Lunch Crew" picture on the next page!

Parking Lot Fundraiser

Thank you to all who worked the parking lot in 2025 and congratulations to those who won the drawings!

Prize	Winner
Family pack-Lincoln Zoo	Kevin Barnes
Vala's 2 General Passes	Lola Young
Bob Stephen's Pack & \$25 gift card for Warm Cookie	Sarah Smith
First winner: \$25 gift card-UNL Bookstore Second winner: Lux Art Classes Gift Certificate	1st: Elenita Donley 2nd: Steve Bieber
Lost in Float-60 min Session	Tricia Liedle
Family Membership to Morrill Hall	Emily Riggle
4 tickets to American Speedway Museum	Christina Franklin
GRAND PRIZE: Embassy Suites-1 night stay & NUFCU gift card-\$100	Jamie Long

2025 SERVICE AWARD RECOGNITION

NAME	DEPARTMENT	YEARS
Lisa L McConnell	Child, Youth & Family Studies	10
Marla J Nissen	Office of the University Registrar	15
Catia C Guerrero	B&F Business Center	10
Natalie C Thompson	B&F Business Center	5
Edith M Reza Martinez	Graduate Studies	5
Jillian E Hoistad	Athletics	10



DONATE TO THE BRADLEY MUNN FUND

If you are interested in donating to the Bradley Munn Fund, which supports UNOPA member professional development through payroll deduction, please do the following:

1. Email giftprocessing@nufoundation.org directly
2. Tell them you want "X" amount taken out of your paycheck to go to Fund #01024840
3. Tell them if you are paid bi-weekly or monthly

They will take care of the paperwork to get it all established.

Your generous donations, of any size, are what make this fund and the support of professional development possible.

If you have any questions, please contact Breana Garretson with UNOPA at bgarretson2@unl.edu

The following people will celebrate birthdays in the next few months!

- Breana Garretson—January 17
- Sarah Giles—January 20
- Jan Wassenberg—February 4
- Lisa McConnell February 19
- Cherie Crist—March 2
- Catia Guerrero—March 8
- Jaime Long—March 20
- Jana Wood—March 24
- Krista Hoover—April 1
- Christina Franklin—April 5
- Skylar Wendel—April 24



Introduce Your Boss to UNOPA recap!

The Bosses Luncheon on Tuesday, November 11, was a great event with 40 members and bosses attending. A small swag bag was given to each boss that registered to attend. Celeste Spier gave a great presentation on what we can do for each other in our different roles in our offices. She also highlighted how bosses and their colleges/departments can support their UNOPA members in various ways, professionally and financially to be members and attend meetings and/or professional development events.

UNOPA Awards Nominations Open NOW!

Join UNOPA in recognizing outstanding members across the University of Nebraska. Nominations will be accepted between December 1st and February 28th with an award presentation held in late spring. The available awards are detailed below, nomination forms can be accessed at the link below each staff award. These Floyd S. Oldt awards are made possible by an endowment left to the University Foundation by Floyd S. Oldt in 1991.

- Floyd S. Oldt Rose Frolik Award
- Floyd S. Oldt Outstanding Staff Award
- Floyd S. Oldt Outstanding Managerial Professional Award
- Floyd S. Oldt Outstanding Boss of the Year Award
- Floyd S. Oldt Presidential Igniting Excellence Award

[Click here to submit an award nomination.](#)

If you have questions, please contact [Jodie Barnes](#), UNOPA 2025-2026 President

Winners will be announced at our Awards Ceremony on Tuesday, April 14, 2026, at 11:30am at *227 Carolyn Pope Edwards Hall on City Campus.

*Note location change



The “Lunch Crew” at People’s City Mission on December 11—ready to serve lunch and presenting a donation check.

Get to Know UNOPA

Melisia Bieber



How long have you been with the University of Nebraska-Lincoln? What have your roles been?

I have worked at UNL for 17 years in July but I've been with TMFD (Textiles, Merchandising & Fashion Design) for 7 years in July. I'm the Office Associate of the dept. as well as general go to gal for most of the depts needs. lol.

How long have you been a member of UNOPA?

I've been a member of UNOPA for 3 years and a member of NAEOP for 2 years. I'm currently the serving as the Chair of the Planning Committee (Combine Program, Outreach and Career/Professional Development). I joined UNOPA after hearing about it through Dr. Maria de Guzman, former chair of TMFD.

What about UNOPA appeals to you?

I was immediately greeting with such wonderful friendly and kind people that I wanted to be a part of this team. It's so nice to be a part of a team that has the same work ethic as I do. I've attended a couple of the Professional Development events where I have learned very valuable skills to make my job easier and more efficient! I've met some amazing people in UNOPA. I love being able to connect with individuals that understand the academic world!

Are you a member of NEOPA or NAEOP? NAEOP and NEOPA??.

Do you have any career goals?

I earned enough points to get my CEOE this past summer in Charleston, South Carolina, at the annual convention.

What does your life outside of work look like?

Outside of work I enjoy spending time with my friends and family! My husband, Steve and I have been married for 31 years in August and we have three wonderfully beautiful, smart, and strong daughters: Audrey (Marco son-in-law), Lauren (Jeff son-in-law) and Haley. I adore animals of all kinds (dogs, cats, lizards, birds, etc.) keep the snakes away! We have fostered Human Society for well over 10 years. My husband & I spend our free time traveling and take lots of pictures. Since I can combine a few of my favorite things in one event, you might even see us at Jazz in June if the weather cooperates this year, listening to music with our friends and family while enjoying a few laughs!

UNOPA Board

ELECTED POSITIONS

President Jodie Barnes

President Elect Tricia Liedle

Treasurer Breana Garretson

Recording Secretary Mel Sedlacek

Past President Jennifer Greenlee

Corresponding Secretary. . Sarah Giles

Website Manager Mirhuanda Meeks

Membership Coordinator. . Lynette Sallinger

APPOINTED COMMITTEE CHAIRS

Awards Beth Zager/Jeanine Anderson

Parliamentarian Christina Franklin

PSP-Professional Standards Program Mirhuanda Meeks

UNOPA Newsletter Jeanine Anderson

Ways & Means TBD

Planning Melisia Bieber

Mission

Education is the birthright of every person.

We as members of the University of Nebraska Office Professionals Association pledge ourselves to safeguard that right. We acknowledge the unique role of educational office professionals and the importance of their contributions to the university and the community.

The purpose of UNOPA is to provide professional growth and promote high professional standards for educational office professionals with the University of Nebraska, as partners upholding the quality of service to the university educational system and the community.

We invite all office support staff at UNL to attend one of our meetings and get enthused about this special organization. We hope you find exciting opportunities and events within UNOPA.