



Staff Newsletter

December 2020

WILLENA STANFORD DIVERSITY AWARD NOMINATIONS

The Willena Stanford Diversity Award was established in 2006 to recognize students who, through their actions, have demonstrated a commitment to enhance and support diversity and equal educational opportunities for all students at UW. The award was created in honor of Stanford, a former University of Wyoming African American and Diaspora Studies instructor. Stanford was a former member of the MLK DOD committee and a longtime member of the UW faculty who had a strong commitment to the education of all students and made significant contributions to diversity at the university.

Nominations for the Willena Stanford Commitment to Diversity Award will be accepted through Monday, January 4th, 2021. The award, sponsored by the [Martin Luther King Jr. Days of Dialogue](#) (MLK DOD) steering committee, is available to any UW student enrolled for the 2021 spring semester.

Nominations will be accepted from UW students, faculty, staff, and administrators. Nominations should be in a one-page letter with the subject: Willena Stanford Diversity Awards and sent to Julio Brionez at jbrionez@uwyo.edu. Questions about eligibility should also be sent to Julio as well.

The nomination letter should include the nominee's name, class standing, major, and how the nominee has enhanced and supported diversity at UW. The nominators should include information about themselves, including their names, titles, contact information and relation to the nominees.

A committee will make the selection, with the winner and

(Above) Participants viewing a presentation in the remodeled Harry C. Vaughan Planetarium in 2014. Need a fun indoor activity? Stay tuned to the schedule of [upcoming planetarium events](#).

all nominees recognized at the Martin Luther King Jr. Days of Dialogue Virtual Award Ceremony being held in February 2021. Additional programming information to follow.

For more information about the Stanford award or MLK DOD program, call Julio Brionez at (307-352-9554) or email jbrionez@uwyo.edu.

JUPITER AND SATURN ALIGN TO CREATE THE “CHRISTMAS STAR”

2020 has been an exceedingly challenging year, which means we should make time to take a look at the “bright side,” whenever we can. It’s easy to get lost in the monotony of all the unfortunate news we hear day to day, and sometimes we forget to acknowledge how beautiful our lives really are.

On December 21st (the winter solstice) a striking astronomical phenomenon will be taking place in the night sky. For the first time in 800 years, Jupiter and Saturn will align so closely that a brilliant light will emerge from the starry expanse of space. If you’re looking to add some extra magic to your holiday season, we recommend queuing up the hot cocoa, finding a location away from the lights of the city and witnessing this incredible event. Optimal viewing will occur in the south west just after sunset on Dec. 21st. If you miss it, don’t fret – you may still be able to catch a glimpse for the remainder of that week.

 uwyo.edu/staffsenate

 staffsen@uwyo.edu

 [@UWStaffSenate](https://www.facebook.com/UWStaffSenate)



LINKEDIN LEARNING IS AVAILABLE CAMPUS WIDE!

Worried about getting a little stir crazy this winter? Remember that you have access to LinkedIn Learning!

All University of Wyoming faculty, staff and students have access to this resource which offers relevant, up-to-date content taught by credible industry experts on a wide range of business, technology and creative subjects. Access over 15,000 courses in 7 different languages taught by real-world practitioners, located around the globe.

Simply [follow this link](#) and use your UW login to get started!

STUDENT MEDIA BOARD LIAISON REPORT

- Student Media is working on collaborating with 7220 Entertainment to arrange for increased opportunities for graphic design students and a Graduate Assistant position. Considering both parties are under the Center for Student Involvement and Leadership (CSIL) the agreement should prove to be mutually beneficial.
- Student Media faired well this semester. They had consistent quality performance and are making goals for the future. Their presence online has improved exponentially which was a positive outcome from the challenges of this year.
- The renovation of the basement of the Union for improved Student Media offices has officially been approved. After identifying funding from Student Media reserves and a contribution from Student Affairs, they can now move forward to create their studio and better utilize the space.

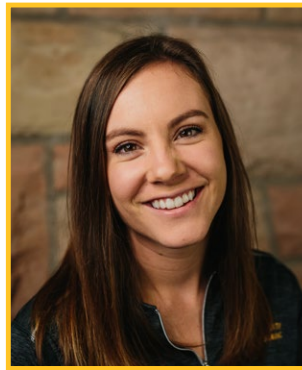


DON'T FORGET to use your two free personal days before the end of the year! Specifics can be found in [this press release](#).

January Staff Senate Meeting

Wednesday, January 6th at 1:15 PM
Virtual meeting via Zoom

KNOW YOUR SENATOR



Jesselyn Burroughs
Academic Advisor, ACES

Jesselyn Burroughs is originally from Torrington, Wyoming and attended the University of Wyoming to earn her degree in Social Science. Upon graduation, she joined the Advising Careers and Exploratory Studies (ACES) team as an academic advisor.

Jesselyn was confirmed to Staff Senate in November of 2020. "I joined staff senate to be a more active member of the campus community. I'm hoping to gain a better understanding of our university's inner workings, and find solutions to future challenges." In her free time, Burroughs enjoys golf, reading, watching football, and spending time with her friends and family.



COVID-19 RESPONSE RESOURCES

- [UW's Official Page for COVID-19 Communication](#)
- [Employee Concerning Behavior Reporting Form](#)
- [Accommodations and Workplace Exceptions](#)
- [Request form for Expanded Family Medical Leave Act \(EFMLA\)](#)



Staff Senate wishes you a happy and healthy holiday season!