

**2024 STAFF SENATE GENERAL ELECTION
UNCLASSIFIED EMPLOYEE
CANDIDATE STATEMENTS
3 YEAR TERM**

Anthony Oster

I am running for a second term as a staff senator serving the professional – unclassified staff for a period of 3 years. In my first term, I co-chaired the Education & Professional Development Committee, which finalized the process for staff and instructors to apply for the Career & Excellence fund which will be available later this year. If re-elected, I'll continue advocating for your needs and concerns. My personal goal includes continuing to voice the importance of dependent tuition assistance to bring LSU in line with other SEC and flagship institutions. Your voice matters – vote for me!

Ashley Collins

My name is Ashley Collins, Executive Assistant to the Vice Provost & Dean at the Graduate School. I'm looking to join Staff Senate so I can be a voice for staff members. I've been here for five years, so I understand the needs of those on campus. I would like to decrease the staff and University disconnect by working on measures to help improve communications about processes and procedural changes that happen at the University level. Additionally, as a personal development goal, I would love the opportunity to meet people across campus that I would never get to interact with.

Carli Faulkner

As a Baton Rouge native, and LSU Alumni, I believe I would be a great fit for the Staff Senate at LSU. Working at the Cox Communications Academic Center for Student-Athletes for the past nine years, I have seen how important it is to foster a supportive and collaborative environment with my co-workers and student-athletes. I am committed to advocating for the rights and well-being of the LSU staff and community. Currently, I am a part of my organization's Professional Development Committee, where we promote and highlight the wonderful things are staff is doing and create opportunities for education and growth within our

department. It would be an honor to be selected as a Staff Senate member for Louisiana State University.

Casey Muller

My goals as a staff senator are to ensure LSU staff has a voice in crafting the university policies that affect our jobs and lives. I aim to promote better and more numerous opportunities for professional growth and support. I hope to enhance communication between staff and administration to promote better transparency and accountability. My motivation for seeking this office distills down to my wish to contribute in some way to our university's success and the well-being of our community.

Chris Wilson

"I'm running for LSU Staff Senate to lend my voice and efforts to making our workplace a little bit better! I understand the challenges staff faces and am committed to working for better resources, communication, and a positive work environment. As a former LSU Student, I am passionate about the Purple and Gold and I believe that together, we can make LSU an even better place to work!"

Dalmer Drake

Serving as a member of the Staff Senate at LSU will give me an opportunity to advocate for the interests and concerns of colleagues and fellow staff members. It will provide a platform to address important issues affecting our university community, such as policies, benefits, professional development, and campus culture.

Being a Staff Senate member at LSU is a meaningful way to make a tangible difference, contribute to the mission and values, and help to facilitate a more inclusive and supportive campus environment.

Deanna Gresham

I would be honored to continue to serve in my capacity as a Staff Senator. It feels wonderful to be part of something that has such a mass effect on so many lives and futures. Sometimes, tucked away in our individual departments, it is hard to

see the big picture. Serving in the Senate gives me the chance to see what the principal issues are for both the unclassified and professional staff of the university, and the process for effecting change.

Debbie Blanchard

As a proud LSU Alumni, Faculty & Staff Recruiting Specialist, and Staff Committee Co-Chair it would be a great honor to serve on the LSU Staff Senate and continue to build on the connections that I have made as an LSU staff member. I enjoy daily interactions with many different types of people, and I enjoy being able to find a connection, being a listener and a problem solver, being a liaison between staff and administration, and being the person that takes action and seeks change for positive outcomes. As a staff committee co-chair, I take great pride in helping to maintain programs for staff on personal and professional well-being, professional development trainings, and being the voice of our staff. Thank you for this opportunity!

Derek Wilson

Hello fellow Tigers!

I believe that the staff of LSU is in need of representation to initiate and promote the topics that matter most to them. Like all of you, I am very busy, and so did not re-run last year, but I recognize very specific issues that need to be addressed on campus and would like to take what time I have to help advance some of the staff senate goals. Some staff senate resolutions that were started when I was last a senator need to be continued, and others need to be re-ignited. The 2 resolutions I would like to see advanced over the next 3 years are the following:

[-LSU Staff Senate Resolution 22-01 Calling for the review and elimination of fees for staff enrolled in Tuition Exemption](#)

I would also like to work with Faculty Senate on their [Resolution 23-05](#) To Pursue Legislative Changes that Remove the Irrevocability of Optional Retirement Plan Enrollment. I know it will take time, so I am running for another 3 year term.

Henri Smith

My name is Henri Smith, and I am the Grants Manager in the Office of Financial Services for the College of Human Sciences and Education. I have worked at LSU for the past 15 years and I have served as a staff senator for the past 3 years.

During those three years, I have been an active member of several committees including the Staff Appreciation committee, and the Education and Professional Development committee. I have also served as the treasurer for Staff Senate for the past 2 years. I have seen firsthand all the hard work that Staff Senate does and the things that we can accomplish when we all work together. This is why I have decided to run for a second term. I feel so honored to have been a part of this organization for the past three years, and I would love to extend my involvement for a second term. I have seen the changes that the staff senate has made over the years. I would love the chance to help bring about even more changes to benefit the great people we have working behind the scenes here at LSU.

Katilyn Simpson

One of the main reasons that I would like to serve as a Staff Senator is to contribute to the continuous evolution of our amazing university and advocate for all the employees on campus. After being given the opportunity to earn my master's degree in HR while being a staff member, I think the knowledge I have gained would apply directly to being a member of Staff Senate. My passion for LSU started as a young child and being a part of the university in different capacities has opened my eyes to all the great aspects of this university.

Michael Bonnette

As a longtime staff member at LSU, I see the opportunity to become part of the Staff Senate as a way to further get involved and use my 30-years on campus as a way to help others. As a longstanding staff member, I feel as I can be as asset to the staff senate in a variety of ways including institutional knowledge as well as helping enhance relationships across all areas of campus. I would like to help bridge gaps between those of us who are lifelong LSU employees and those who are relatively new to our University.

Mo Carney

As a current member of the Staff Senate, I am eager to continue serving LSU staff in any capacity possible. My goal is to facilitate positive changes for LSU and its community. Over my 15 years at LSU, I have collaborated with many department members, working together to find solutions that benefit the university as a

whole. It would be an honor to continue collaborating with staff members university-wide, using our collective knowledge and experiences to address new challenges and drive positive change at LSU.

Paige Whittington

"During my five years of working at LSU, I have had the opportunity to observe various facets of the organization to which I belong. I am excited about the prospect of potentially working alongside others who share the same goal of improving our environment, not only for ourselves but for everyone around us. We spend a considerable amount of time here, so we must work hard to make it as enjoyable as possible."

Quinneka McDonald

In July, it will be my 6th year at LSU, I'm pumped about the chance to represent you as a senator! Since volunteering at Holiday on Campus in 2019, a spark ignited pushing me to active engagement. I'm committed to amplifying staff voices and ensuring our needs are met. Whether it's speaking up, asking tough questions, or getting things done, I'm committed to making a difference. With a master's degree in LHRD and the experience of being a parent and student, I understand the multifaceted roles beyond traditional work hours. Given the chance, I'll strive to make LSU an outstanding workplace for all.