

Employee Assistance Program offers several services to full-time employees

BSC Human Resources reminds full-time employees about the Employee Assistance Program through Medcenter One, a free, confidential service that helps provide solutions for health, legal, and financial problems. An employee's spouse and children can also use most of these services provided through an agreement with BSC, Medcenter One and Blue Cross/Blue Shield of North Dakota. The package includes:

- Eight sessions with a licensed mental health professional per problem, per year, per family member
- Fitness testing consultation with a personal trainer, explanation of test results, and recommended routine for better health
- Drug/alcohol assessments
- One hour free legal consultation with Medcenter One's contracted firms per problem, per year. Call 323-8879 for a referral.
- Financial counseling/money management on a limited basis
- Educational monthly newsletters (on their Web site)

The Employee Assistance Program does not report names to BSC, only that the service was used. To access the program, call Medcenter One at 323-6543 for an appointment. Information is also available at www.medcenterone.com/services/eap.htm.

Bob Kuntz recognized for supporting staff

Robert Kuntz, buildings and grounds director, is recipient of the My Boss Is a Patriot Award from the Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve, a civilian organization affiliated with the U.S. Department of Defense. He was nominated by **Daniel Ell**, BSC security officer and staff sergeant with the 814th Medical Detachment, North Dakota Army National Guard. Ell said Kuntz was very supportive with leave when he was called to help ready North Dakota units deploying for Iraq during 2003. "He never questioned letting me have time off no matter how short notice I gave him," Ell said.

Representatives from ESGR presented Kuntz with a framed certificate during a BSC department meeting Nov. 19. Kuntz is among 18 Bismarck and three Mandan residents to be honored by ESGR in fiscal year 2004. Executive director Vern Fetch, a retired colonel, said the award is part of a national program that recognizes employers who have shown outstanding support to a citizen soldier. The organization serves as liaison between employers and soldiers deployed during a conflict and helps negotiate their re-employment upon return.

BSC welcomes new employees

Chris Beckler spent time as a temporary administrative assistant in BSC admissions, distance education, and Voc-Tech Center office before being hired for a full-time job as bookstore assistant. She also worked in various departments of state government through Command Labor this year. A Mandan native, Beckler attended RD Hairstylists College in Bismarck and was a stylist at JC Penney Salon for 13 years. She graduated from BSC in 2000 with an AAS in Information Processing Specialist. Beckler has a 6-year-old daughter and enjoys family and shopping.

As administrative secretary for OSHA Consultation Services, **Elizabeth Brendel** is the first line greeter for visitors to BSC's second floor offices in the Horizon Building. She also splits her time as an account technician for Corporate and Continuing Education one floor down. A graduate of University of Mary in 2003, Brendel earned a BS in business administration and achieved All American in track and field. She was track coach at St. Mary's Central High School while in college and worked for Unisys Corp. in the accounts payable division. Raised in Bismarck, Brendel has a 4-year-old daughter and enjoys softball.

Jason Matthews, BSC's first full-time alumni coordinator, brings a slice of political savvy and understanding of student development and higher education to a job and alumni organization he plans to expand. "I have a lot of ideas," he says. Matthews has a BA in political science from the University of North Dakota and a master's in management from the University of Mary, where he worked for three years in student affairs. He was residence hall director, student government advisor, student organizations coordinator, and yearbook advisor. This fall, he was staff assistant for a statewide political campaign. Matthews grew up in Garrison and enjoys reading, travel, sketching, golf, and deer hunting.

Concert Choir spreads cheer

BSC's Concert Choir, under the direction of Dr. Tom Porter, entertained residents of the Waterford on Dec. 1 and of the Baptist Home on Dec. 3.

Leach Foundation recognized through BSC nomination

Several employees had the pleasure of seeing a local foundation recognized for its good works at a national conference in Washington, D.C. The Tom and Frances Leach Foundation of Bismarck was named the Region VIII Benefactor of the Year for 2004 by the Council for Resource Development (CRD).

BSC nominated the Leach Foundation, which was selected from nominations submitted by two-year institutions in Colorado, Montana, North Dakota, South Dakota, Utah, and Wyoming. The council is an affiliate of the American Association of Community Colleges.

The Leach Foundation has awarded nearly \$9 million in gifts during the past 50 years. BSC has received grants of nearly \$600,000, including about \$400,000 to help build the Leach Music Center.

Employees who attended the CRD Annual National Conference in Washington were **Dr. Donna S. Thigpen**, president; **Gordon Binek**, vice president for college advancement and federal

relations; **Mary Friesz**, director of development and marketing; **Julie Erickson**, resource development coordinator; **Jaelyn Bugbee**, fund development coordinator; and **Jason Matthews**, alumni coordinator. They also met with U.S. Senator Byron Dorgan.

December ConnectND newsletter now available

The December issue of eBulletin (the ConnectND newsletter) is now available online and in printable format at:

<http://www.nodak.edu/connectnd/repository/news/ebulletin-12-2004.pdf>

Articles include:

- Heading toward "Final Four" campuses
- Steering Committee to assess progress
- NYC campuses hear ConnectND story
- Portal team planning for campus branding
- Oracle bid for PeopleSoft at stalemate
- Mad (magazine) sense of humor

Faculty/Staff News

Pat Gross, audiovisual, IVN/ITV coordinator, attended a conference of the Western Conference for Educational Technology (WCET) in San Antonio Nov. 10-13.

Bill Wahlman, director of energy projects, and **Wes Braun**, energy technology online program manager/instructor, traveled to Orlando, Fla., Nov. 30-Dec. 2 for the Power Generation Conference. BSC had an exhibit at the conference.

Bruce Emmil, energy technology online program manager, traveled to Washington, D.C., to review grants for the National Science Foundation Dec. 1-3.

Dan Schmidt, energy technology online program manager, traveled to Baton Rouge, La., for a meeting with PowerSafe Dec. 6-8.