Status Report- Penn Professional Staff Assembly

- The theme year for the PPSA is “Year of Engagement.” As part of this theme year, the PPSA plans to hold events which enable to staff to engage at various levels, including professional development, networking, and engagement with the University and the Philadelphia community. Events will include a skill share event, steps to success at Penn, and a discussion about diversity.

- In December we hosted two events to give back to the community. On December 18th, PPSA partnered with the Red Cross and held a blood drive in Houston Hall and collected 32 blood donations. Throughout the month of December, PPSA members held collections for used clothing that benefited three organizations: Dress for Success (women’s clothing), Bethesda Project (men and women’s clothing), and Cradles to Crayons (children’s clothing and equipment). Overall, we were able to contribute over 2,000lbs of donated items to these organizations.

- Every January, PPSA hosts a senior leadership speaker event for staff. This year we’re pleased and honored to host Executive Vice President Craig Carnaroli on January 30th for a noontime presentation on change management at the University.

- In line with our theme year, we will be hosting our second diversity workshop on February 24, 2015 led by former GSE professor Ann Tiao. The workshop focuses on identity, unconscious biases and prejudices, and microaggressions. Registered participants will be asked to complete a confidential survey ahead of time and discuss the significance of the results during the workshop.

Respectfully submitted,

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Chair, PPSA  Past Chair, PPSA  Chair Elect, PPSA