
CUPA-HR MIDWEST REGION NEWSLETTER

Fall 2004

Serving Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Manitoba, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska, North Dakota, Ohio, South Dakota, Wisconsin, & Guam

Seattle Conference – March 9-12, 2005

The 2005 Northwest-Midwest Regional Conference will be held in the beautiful Pacific Northwest in breath-taking Seattle, Washington, home to historic Pike Place Market, the Space Needle (a 607-foot rotating structure built for the 1962 World's Fair), an internationally-acclaimed 100-year old symphony orchestra, and a host of other culinary and cultural experiences.

The conference site is the [Sheraton Hotel and Towers](#) right in the heart of downtown Seattle. It has it all, from 840 guest rooms, club level rooms and lounge, indoor heated lap pool, fitness center and spa facilities and services, to the Gallery Lounge and Pike Street Café.

Special conference room rates in the main hotel are \$155 single/double occupancy. Club level rates are \$195 single and \$215 double occupancy. Suites begin at \$300. Triple Starwood points will be awarded to CUPA-HR conference attendees. Conference rates apply three days prior to and 3 days following the conference. The cut-off date for room block reservations is February 14, 2005. Call 888-625-5144 toll-free or 206-621-9000 today to make your reservations or online at [Reservations](#).

The program being planned will undoubtedly benefit you professionally (learning and networking) and personally. The conference location site provides an opportunity to obtain professional development and to extend the trip into a family vacation.

Interested in giving a presentation? Proposals must be submitted by October 22, 2004. For information and forms, go to www.cupahrregions.org/midwest/conference/2004/index.html and click on *Call for Presentations*.

Message from the Chair

I am pleased to write this letter on behalf of my colleagues on the Midwest CUPA-HR Board. As we all know, CUPA-HR provides us all with a great networking opportunity. However, little did I know how good this opportunity was until I became involved with the Midwest Board last year, serving as chair-elect. Your Midwest Board members have been working hard with our counterparts from the Northwest to put together a great joint conference from March 9-12, 2005 in Seattle.

For those of you who have never been to Seattle, you now have even more reason to attend. You will find Seattle to be a beautiful city, you will stay at a great hotel (Sheraton Hotel & Towers) at a super rate, and you will have the opportunity to attend great sessions

and network not only with other Midwest colleagues, but also with colleagues from the Northwest. What a deal!

Please mark your calendars now and watch for additional information which will be forthcoming. Hope to see you in Seattle!

Warmest Regards,
Herb Trenez, Chair

Regional Awards

Do you know someone who developed a creative solution to a problem, demonstrated outstanding leadership, or served his/her chapter well? Then consider nominating this individual or institution (or even yourself) for a Midwest Region award. It's easy to do! Just complete the nomination form and send it electronically to Past-Chair, Jim Kemper, at kemper@ohio.edu. A description of the various awards, the criteria for eligibility, and the nomination form can be located by clicking on the following web address: <http://www.cupahrregions.org/midwest/Midwest%20Region%20Awards/index.html>.

The deadline for nominations is **November 30, 2004**, so there's plenty of time for you to get your information ready. Questions? Contact Jim Kemper via e-mail at kemper@ohio.edu or by calling 740/593-1640.

Member News

Two Midwest Region members—**Mary Fischer**, Director of Human Resources and Affirmative Action at the University of Wisconsin-Green Bay, and **Carolyn Baskett**, Director of Human Resources at Metropolitan Community College in Kansas City—have been appointed to the CUPA-HR Association's membership committee. The membership committee is comprised of a national board member, the executive director (or designee) and a representative from each region.

The membership committee's objective is to strengthen the effectiveness of the National Board in areas relating to membership development and services, reflective of the strategic plan. Through its efforts, the committee will ensure that the Association continually achieves its goals of fostering and sustaining a broad, actively engaged membership, encompassing all dimensions of the higher education community. It will provide direction and oversight for the development and coordination of membership activities, consistent with the Association's Strategic Plan.

Update of National Board Activities

Note: Mary Fischer and Jim Kemper, Midwest Region representatives on the CUPA-HR National Board of Directors, provided this report on activities at the national level.

Your CUPA-HR organization is poised for great things including significant contributions to the Human Resource profession. CUPA-HR has 'turned a corner' and is financially stable with a firm membership base, and we are fortunate to have a national office staff that is highly talented, immensely dedicated, and possesses a loyalty and passion to move our association further into growth and development.

The physical office move to Knoxville, Tennessee, has significantly lowered operational costs. This fact, coupled with the improvement of National Office operations, will allow our association to be more efficient. For example, the membership database has been improved and enhanced. The website has been created anew.

The key question before CUPA-HR currently is that of effectiveness – how can we be most effective for the members? We believe there are three major initiatives currently underway that could be viewed as linchpins to our future success.

The first is that of membership services. These enhanced services include more effective interaction on the phones, an improved and enhanced website, and more effective member record-keeping and reporting. Additionally, the recent National Survey of members was an effort to reach out to the members to seek input on needs and wants that will impact the future initiatives of the association.

The second notion is that of a Knowledge Center. The Knowledge Center's driving focus is:

- to provide members with state-of-the-art tools, products, services, and information necessary to transform the role of human resources on campus;
- and, to improve and expand the capability of human resource practitioners in higher education.

The Knowledge Center will include links to HR resources, HR practices database, HR library serves, HR career development, HR frequently asked questions, and links to white papers, journals, web sites, etc. The Knowledge Center should 'go live' within the next year.

The third linchpin to success will be the management of the Board of Directors. The Board is transitioning from an 'operational' board to a 'leadership' board and will be more visionary in nature. This will unleash the creative energy of the office staff and allow the Board to remain focused on strategic or visionary issues.

We look forward to continuing to serve you as your representatives to the National Board. If you would like to contact us, please do so at:

Jim Kemper, Assistant VP for Human Resources
Ohio University
kemper@ohio.edu

Mary Fischer, Director of Human Resources
University of Wisconsin - Green Bay
fischerm@uwgb.edu

2006 Regional Conference

Over the years, cars have changed and so have human resources practices—both have evolved to address the needs of a changing society. Don't get caught driving a *model-T (or an Edsel)* on today's super highway. Plan to attend the 2006 Midwest Region conference to be held **April 23-26** in Dearborn, Michigan.

The official conference site, Hyatt Regency Dearborn, contains a spectacular 16-story atrium lobby and has 772 contemporary guestrooms. Area attractions include historic Greenfield Village, the Henry Ford Museum, and the Motown Historical Museum. To learn more about the hotel and the local area, click on: <http://dearborn.hyatt.com/property/index.jhtml>

Reserve **April 23-26, 2006** on your calendar and watch for conference details at <http://www.cupahrregions.org/midwest/index.html>.

Miscellanea

Newsletter Publication Notice: The winter issue of the CUPA-HR Midwest Region Newsletter will be published in February. If you have contributions to make or suggestions for newsletter items, or if you know about a school's "best practice" that would make an interesting article, please contact Maureen Moeglin at mmoeglin@mccneb.edu.