

Below please find the 29th edition of Communique, a weekly newsletter for Lindenwood University employees. If you have an item for Communique, please email squeen@lindenwood.edu

Dependent Coverage Extended to Age 25

A measure approved by the Missouri Legislature will extend the age to 25 for dependents eligible to remain on their parents' insurance coverage.

Group Health Plan, which provides insurance coverage for Lindenwood University employees, recently notified Vice President for Human Resources Rick Boyle of the change. The plan goes into effect January 1, 2008.

Boyle said employees enrolled with GHP will have the opportunity to add eligible dependents to their coverage through January 31. After this time, only dependents that become eligible under existing guidelines will be able to enroll.

In order to qualify for coverage, the dependent must be less than 25, unmarried, a resident of Missouri, and must not have health insurance coverage under a health benefit plan or government program.

Bert Griffin November Employee of Month

Congratulations to Bert Griffin, who has been named Lindenwood University's Employee of the Month for November. Griffin, who works in maintenance and purchasing, has been fixing things at Lindenwood for nine years.

Griffin is the maintenance man for Roemer Hall, the President's Office Building (formerly the President's House), the Performance Arena, the Welcome Center, Gamble House, and the Heritage Campus boiler room. On a given day, he said he might find himself fixing lights, doors that stick, radiators that spit water or anything else that comes up.

"I also buy plumbing and electrical supplies," Griffin said, "and I was heavily involved in the new lighting that was installed around campus, including getting the poles and other supplies and arranging for a contractor."

Prior to coming to work at Lindenwood, Griffin worked in construction and drove a truck.

"I was tired to being on the road all the time and decided I needed to get a more normal job," Griffin said. "I knew someone on staff at Lindenwood and found out about the job that way."

During his time here, Griffin has seen the massive changes on campus from the maintenance perspective, including the removal of trailer housing and the various other improvements and additions.

"I've seen all the new dorms built and the Spellmann Center and all the other improvements," Griffin said. "I came when the Performance Arena was being built, and I'm the maintenance man there now. I've seen lots of advancement. The campus has totally changed."

He said the Employee of the Month award caught him by surprise.

"I'm surprised and excited that someone took the time to nominate me for employee of the month," Griffin said. "I really appreciate it."

Have You RSVP'd to LU Christmas Party?

Lindenwood's University's faculty and staff Christmas party promises to be the biggest and best ever, so make sure to RSVP this week!

The party begins at 6 p.m. Saturday, December 15, 2007. Once again, it will be held at the Lindenwood University Club on Old Friedens Road.

If you would like to participate in the voluntary gift exchange, bring a gift valued at \$10. If possible, please share a ride with a co-worker. Parking is very limited.

RSVP by December 7 to jshanahan@lindenwood.edu.

Provost Encourages Using Turnitin to Combat Plagiarism

Vice President for Academic Affairs and Provost Jann Weitzel reminds faculty members that using Turnitin is a good way to combat plagiarism. It is described as “A Proven Solution: Used by thousands of institutions in over 80 countries, Turnitin’s comprehensive plagiarism prevention system allows a quick and effective check all of students’ work in a fraction of the time necessary to scan a few suspect papers using a search engine.

It is considered a complete search engine: Every paper submitted is returned in the form of a customized originality report. Results are based on exhaustive searches of billions of pages from both current and archived instances of the internet, millions of student papers previously submitted to Turnitin, and commercial databases of journal articles and periodicals.”
<http://www.turnitin.com/static/plagiarism.html>

If you have not already started to use Turnitin, please plan to begin in the spring. This is a service that LU has purchased, and those of who use the program find that it quickly and efficiently determines the degree to which a paper has been copied from another source.

This tool is not just for research papers. Weitzel recommends that all student work be submitted through Turnitin-- in all departments and in all divisions. In that way, recycled work (work completed by a student last semester and resubmitted by a different student this semester) will be identified.

Turnitin is easy to use. It is almost no work on the part of the instructor. If you need more information, please contact Andy Thomason at x4552.

“I firmly believe it is the responsibility of all instructors to respect the honesty and integrity of our students by not letting those who choose to cheat earn credit for work that is not their own” Weitzel said.

Weitzel reminded all of us of the first words of Lindenwood University’s Academic Honesty Policy:

Academic honesty is the foundation of any educational institution It is the responsibility of each student, professor, and administrator at Lindenwood University to uphold the honor of the institution by acting honestly and truthfully in all situations.” These are the first words of Lindenwood University’s Academic Honesty Policy.