



BEARCAT QUARTERLY

Supporting Staff • Strengthening Community • Celebrating Lander

A Note from the Chair:

Welcome to the first issue of our Bearcat Quarterly Newsletter!

As we begin another year, I'm excited about the opportunities ahead for Staff Senate and for our staff community. Serving as Chair is an opportunity I do not take lightly, and I look forward to working alongside our senators and staff across campus to ensure Staff Senate continues to be a meaningful voice, resource and advocate for Lander employees.

This year, our focus is on strengthening communication, creating opportunities for staff to connect, recognizing the great work happening across our campus and continuing to identify ways we can better support the people who make Lander such a special place to work. We also want to make sure Staff Senate is accessible, and that staff feel comfortable sharing ideas, asking questions and bringing forward concerns.

This quarterly newsletter is one way we hope to strengthen that connection. Each issue will provide updates from Staff Senate, highlight employees and offices across campus, celebrate accomplishments, share upcoming events and opportunities, and keep you informed about what is happening within our campus community.

Most importantly, I want to encourage you to stay engaged. Attend an event, nominate a colleague for recognition, share an idea with your Staff Senator or simply reach out and let us know how Staff Senate can better serve you.

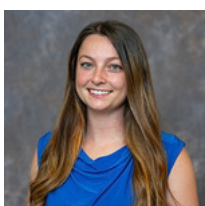
Thank you for everything you do each day for our students, your colleagues and Lander University. I'm looking forward to what we can accomplish together this year.

Kenneth Roach II
Chair, Staff Senate

Meet the 2026-2027 Staff Senate



Student Experience and Quality
Assurance
Hannah Sacay-Bagwell



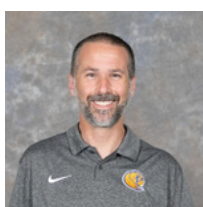
Athletics
Deegan Green



Athletics
Tony LePore



Athletics
Kenneth Roach



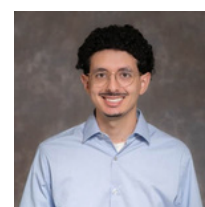
Finance and Administration
Corey Anthony



Finance and Administration
Austin Gregory

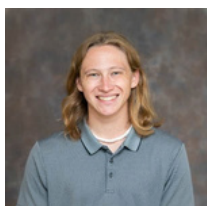


Finance and Administration
Melody Jacks

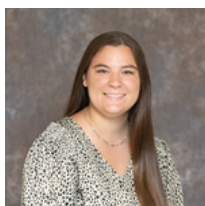


Finance and Administration
Jimmy Rashid

Staff Senate serves as a voice for Lander University staff and works to strengthen communication, engagement, recognition and collaboration across our campus. Get to know the colleagues representing you during the 2026–27 year.



Enrollment and Access
Management
Harrison Howell



Enrollment and Access
Management
Raylyn Johnson



Enrollment and Access
Management
McKenzie Stone



Office of Dean of Students
Talia Samard



Academic Affairs
Grant Stone



Marketing and Communications
Advancement
Lindsey Hodges

Fall Fest 2026: A Look Back

Thank you to everyone who joined us for Fall Fest 2026! Staff from across campus came together for an afternoon of food, fun, friendly competition and fellowship.

From our Halloween Movies Pumpkin Decorating Contest to games, activities and plenty of opportunities to connect, we hope everyone enjoyed taking a break and spending time with colleagues from across Lander.

A special thank you to everyone who participated, volunteered and helped make this year's Fall Fest a success. We're already looking forward to next year!

Pumpkin Contest Winners:



First place and People's Choice Award:
Office of Financial Aid



Second Place:
Office of Workforce and Career Development



Third Place:
Office of Student Engagement

Congratulations!

Office Spotlight (August-October)

The Lander University Staff Senate is excited to recognize Lander Athletics as our August–October 2026 Office Spotlight recipient!

Their nominator shared: “The work that happens behind the scenes may not always be seen, but it plays an important role in making sure our student-athletes can start the year prepared to succeed in the classroom and in competition.”



Third Quarter Employees of the Month



Madison Stansell
August 2026

You are always willing to help others, you have a welcoming spirit, and you ensure that issues are resolved thoroughly. You do the necessary work that allows Lander University to think and grow.



Hannah Beaty
September 2026

You are a hard worker, and you always go above and beyond. You do the necessary work that allows Lander University to think and grow.



Gabriel Hall
October 2026

You are dependable and hardworking person who consistently goes above and beyond your daily responsibilities. You do the necessary work that allows Lander University to think and grow.

Welcome to Lander! (July-October Staff Hires)

We're excited to welcome the newest members of Bearcat Country!

Athletics: Sarah McGuirl, Christopher Ketron, Garrett Lineberger, Jeffrey Thompson, Matthew Bendixen, Jonathan Gaglio and Sydny Guyer

Budget Office: Chelsea Ziegenfuss

College of Humanities, Arts and Social Sciences: Sarah Rosson and Rebecca Drucker

Housing and Residence Life: Jana West and Olivia Payne

Human Resources: Michaela Rushton

LUPD: Crystal Porter

Marketing and Communications: Campbell Gullledge

Physical Plant: Tamekia Payne

Registrar's Office: Lauren Weathers

Student Support Services: Anna Earnest

University Advancement: Kate Orcutt

Wellness Center: Chandler Scruggs



Did you know?

Wednesdays just got better for Lander employees!

Lander University faculty and staff can enjoy 10% off their meal every Wednesday at Sports Break. Simply show your valid Lander University employee ID to receive the discount.

It's a great excuse to grab lunch or dinner with your fellow Bearcats!

Bearcat Highlight

Lander Earns Gold Standard Recognition

Lander University has been recognized as a Gold Standard awardee by the South Carolina Department of Veterans' Affairs for its commitment to supporting veterans, active-duty service members and military-connected students.

Gold is the highest level of recognition awarded through the South Carolina Military Academic Recognition Program. Lander and Clemson University were the only traditional four-year public universities in South Carolina to receive the designation.

"Receiving Gold Standard recognition directly from the South Carolina Department of Veterans' Affairs is something we are extremely proud of," said Brent Delgado, director of Military and Veteran Services at Lander.

"This is not simply recognition of one office or one program. It reflects the work being done across Lander to make sure veterans, service members and their families have the resources and support they need to succeed," he said. "Most importantly, it shows our military-connected students that Lander's commitment to them goes far beyond words."

The recognition reflects efforts across the University to provide military-connected students with the resources, services and support they need to succeed both in and outside the classroom.

Congratulations to everyone across Lander whose work contributed to this outstanding recognition!



Save the Date

Faculty vs. Staff: Who Will Take the Win?

The friendly competition is underway! Faculty and staff are going head-to-head to help restock the Bear Necessities Food Pantry, and there's still time to help Team Staff come out on top.

Through October 26, staff can donate non-perishable food, personal hygiene products, paper products and other everyday essentials. Donations can be dropped off in the main lobby of the Larry A. Jackson Library.

Every donation makes a difference for our students—so grab a few items, support a great cause and help Team Staff take the win!

Faculty vs. Staff. One Campus. One Great Cause.



Fall dates to remember:

- October 31 – PEBA Open Enrollment Ends
- November 3 – Election Day (University Closed)
- November 7 – Open House
- November 12 - Staff Senate Meeting at 10 a.m.
- November 26-27 – Thanksgiving (University Closed)
- December 10 – Staff Senate Meeting at 10 a.m.
- December 15 – Commencement
- December 24 - January 1 – Holiday Break (University Closed)

Contact Staff Senate:

Email: staffsenate@lander.edu

Website: <https://www.lander.edu/staff-senate>