



## Welcome to Your Employee Newsletter!

Howdy, Texas A&M employee! This is a special introductory issue of a brand-new employee newsletter from HR! In this issue we want to share with you our objectives, ask for your [feedback](#) about the topics we plan to feature, and ask for your suggestions on additional articles for upcoming issues. Oh, and we want your help in naming this newsletter so we are running a naming [contest!](#) Our next issue will be in November when we'll announce the contest winner and the newsletter name. We are including some actual HR news about your Benefits that you really need to read, so don't skip that!



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## Newsletter Objectives

So, why is HR publishing an employee newsletter? We want you to hear it from us! When there's HR-related news or information that will impact you, as an employee, we want you to get that information directly from us.

Informative! This newsletter will promote HR-related services and information that you need to know. Is your health insurance changing? Are there updates about retirement requirements? What's up with hiring employees? Where can you go for HR help? These are questions that we will answer for you. We'll provide information that can inspire your career success! The newsletter content will be all about HR, all the time!

Feedback! We want to hear from you. This newsletter is meant to be a means of two-way communication. In each issue you can give us your opinion on articles for the future or ask questions about articles you just read.

No jacket required! The tone of this newsletter will be casual. The articles will be written in a clear, concise, easy to read format. And, it will be electronic! You can bookmark it, read it now, read it later, or even print it to take home to share with family.

The newsletter will officially launch in January 2013 and will be published three times a year. The "official" newsletter won't begin until we hear from you so please help plan the articles and information that you want to learn more about by reading the newsletter. [GIVE FEEDBACK HERE!](#)



## Name this Newsletter and Win a Prize!

We tried to think of a cool name for the HR employee newsletter but we decided the creative people here at A&M could help us out. So, we are announcing our [newsletter naming contest!](#) The contest will run 6 weeks (Sept. 20 – Oct. 30).

1. Only Texas A&M University employees may enter (excluding HR employees).
2. Participants may enter more than one suggested newsletter name.

3. The name should have some significance for the reader, so a suggested name plus a tag line that helps define the purpose should be provided (but is not required).  
*For example: Career Connection - Connecting employees with HR services to advance careers at Texas A&M.*  
– Tip, don't enter this name. ☺

HR employees will pick the grand prize winning newsletter name, and there will be a chance prize drawing from all those who entered the contest.

## GRAND PRIZE



The person submitting the grand prize winning name will receive a handheld tablet computer with a Google Android Operating System! WHOOP!

- Full internet browsing with flash player and PDF reader
- YouTube at your fingertips
- Pre-loaded e-reader
- Digital picture viewer application
- Access to emails

All submitted entries will be entered into a chance prize drawing to win one of three eBook Readers; perfect for the bookworm on the move. You'll have access to read millions of eBooks and listen to your music while you read.

Do you already have a great name in mind for the newsletter?

[ENTER THE CONTEST HERE!](#)



## To Your Benefit

Welcome to a new academic year at Texas A&M! A new year also means a new benefit plan year and this year we will have many new members in the A&M Care Plan, administered by [BlueCross BlueShield of Texas](#). Therefore, we would like to take the opportunity to inform new members and remind existing members of some plan highlights:

- **Preventive services are covered at 100%** - You will not pay a deductible or expenses related to [preventive services](#). It is important for the charge to be paid at 100%, it must be billed by the provider's office as a preventive service.
- **New feature "Benefits Value Advisors"** – The A&M Care plan implemented a new service to help individuals maximize their benefits by becoming informed consumers. When you contact a [Benefits Value Advisor](#), they can provide cost estimates and qualify comparisons, schedule appointments and help with pre-certification for a number of different high-volume procedures.
- **Deductible Credits**
  1. Receive a \$50 deductible credit for having an annual physical or well check-up. Employees can use sick leave for doctor's appointment, have office visits covered at 100% as preventive service AND get a \$50 deductible credit. PLUS, the benefit of helping to live a healthier life.
  2. Receive a \$50 deductible credit for taking a Health Risk Assessment (HRA). With only 15-20 minutes of time, members age 18 or older may take an online HRA which will provide valuable individualized health information and wellness recommendations. PLUS, earn that \$50 deductible credit! [Sign on today](#) and take your HRA and encourage your family members to do the same. What you learn might improve your life!

Employees are encouraged to understand their benefit programs to get the full value. Please contact HR Benefits Services at 979-862-1718 if you have any questions related to your benefits.

## **Flu Vaccine Clinics October 3 & 4**

For your convenience and good health, Human Resources is partnering with Scott & White Clinic to offer flu vaccine (seasonal and H1N1 combined, injection and mist) clinics on campus October 3 & 4 from 8:00 a.m. through 5:00 p.m. in the General Services Complex, Assembly Room 101 at 750 Agronomy Road. President R. Bowen Loftin encourages supervisors to allow their employees time to attend the clinic during work hours.



Any Texas A&M System employee and their family members are welcome to participate. No appointments are needed but due to large numbers of participants, we request that employees attend on the following dates based on their last names if possible.

- **Last name begins with A-N, Wed., October 3**
- **Last name begins with O-Z, Thurs., October 4**

Please visit the Human Resources website at <http://employees.tamu.edu/flu.aspx> to obtain a consent form, print a flyer and read full details about the clinic. If you have questions, please contact Human Resources at [benefits@tamu.edu](mailto:benefits@tamu.edu) or 862-1718.

## **October is Disability Employment Awareness Month**

October is Disability Employment Awareness month and Texas A&M Human Resources is supporting the Campaign for Disability Employment, a new collaborative effort to promote positive employment outcomes for people with disabilities. Look for weekly information from HR about this initiative throughout October. Learn more about what you and your department can do to support this campaign for Disability Employment at <http://employees.tamu.edu/managers/campaign.aspx> on the HR website.



## **We'll Be Back in November**

Our next issue will be in November when we'll announce the contest winner and the newsletter name!



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