

## **Newsletter Naming Contest Winner... "HR Express" by Brenda Hayes!**

Yes, we have a winner! Congrats to **Brenda Hayes**, the lucky contestant who was the first person to submit the winning entry of "HR Express" for the Human Resources newsletter naming contest! With 126 individuals submitting nearly 500 creative entries; it was no easy task for the HR staff to pick a winner but *HR Express* was the favorite.



"It was a big surprise to get a call that I had won the naming contest! I had a fun time brainstorming different names," said Brenda, a Senior IT Consultant with the University Libraries. She added, "It's a delight and an honor for my entry to be selected. I look forward to reading upcoming "HR Express" newsletters!"

*Pictured above is Brenda with her prize, a handheld tablet computer with the Google Android Operating System!*

Brenda said she will enjoy learning about the latest HR news that affects her as a University employee such as benefit facts, upcoming training and development, policies, and other information. She especially likes that the newsletter will be electronic so she can access it anytime, anywhere, and refer back to it as needed.

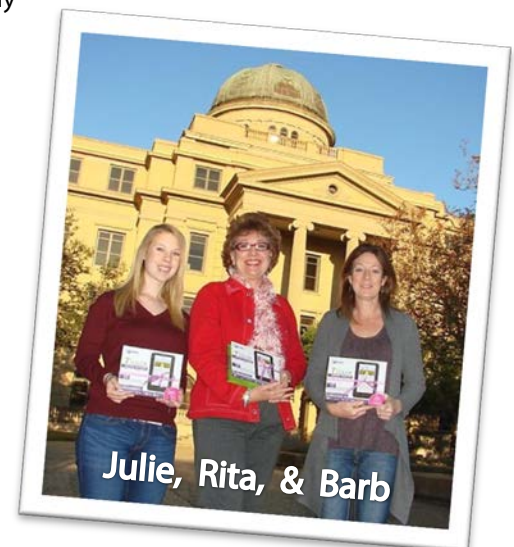
## **Three Lucky E-Book Winners!**

Brenda wasn't the only winner; three just-as-lucky individuals were randomly selected for a prize drawing just for entering the contest. Each received an E-book reader! Congratulations!

**Julie Burns**, Student Blogger for Scholarships & Financial Aid said, "The E-book is a great resource for studying or leisurely reading on the go. I am so thankful to have won this awesome tool!" As a Management major with a Human Resource Development minor, Julie plans to work in Human Resource Management upon graduation in May 2014. WHOOP!

**Rita Moyes**, Instructional Assistant Professor in Biology said she entered the contest because, "I thought it would be fun to tell people that I named the newsletter."

**Barb Earnest**, Research Assistant in Biology said she is looking forward to learning about our employee benefits in the newsletter. She stated, "The newsletter will be a great source for information that will benefit employees, such as the \$50 deductible credit for having an "annual well check-up" and various topics to help employees find resources for their career at A&M."



Thank you to ALL who entered the newsletter naming contest! We were delighted to see a big interest in an HR employee newsletter. *HR Express* will be published three times a year starting in January 2013 with the goal of getting HR-related news directly to YOU!

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## ***We Hear You! -- Newsletter Feedback Results***

The “nameless” newsletter issue in September asked for your opinion on newsletter content through a feedback survey. We wanted to hear from you what is most valuable in an HR newsletter. Not surprisingly, employees were most interested in their employee health insurance and employee benefits or “perks”, followed by an interest in training information and retirement, career planning, and counseling information. Thank you for your feedback! Now we can deliver information that responds to your needs.

The feedback survey also asked employees to rank the importance of the eight newsletter sections. Here are the sections you ranked as the top three most important:

**#1 To Your Benefit:** publicizing dates, information, changes, or upcoming events for insurance and other benefits products.

**#2 Featured Articles:** key articles relative to the timing of the newsletter, hot topics, or a personal interest story that highlights the success of HR services.

**#3 Tips for Career Success:** highlights HR workshops that will help employees succeed in their careers at A&M.

Do you agree or disagree? We still want your feedback! Let us know anytime by visiting our [feedback form online](#).



## ***System Upgrade Coming in 2013 to TAMU Jobs Website***

HR is implementing a significant upgrade to the Online Employment, Position Description & Performance Evaluation System, (aka TAMU Jobs on the Single Sign On menu). TAMU Jobs will be renamed PATH (**P**ortal **A**ccess for **T**otal **H**R). It will be a one-stop shop for postings, positions, and performance.

HR recently sent a message to all budgeted employees involved in any part of the hiring process for staff employees, managing position descriptions online, or using the online performance evaluation process, to let them know about the upgrade. Additionally, we will provide more details over the next few months through the HR Liaison Network News as we develop demos and training specifically for hiring supervisors and HR Liaisons. You can check out our project web page at <http://employees.tamu.edu/PATH> for status updates on the PATH implementation.

## ***Complete the Staff Employee Climate Survey by December 7***



A climate survey specifically for staff employees was emailed to staff by Dr. Wendy Boswell on November 26. Dr. Boswell is a researcher and faculty member of the Mays School of Business with whom Human Resources has partnered to conduct this important organizational climate study.

There are two phases of the survey. Phase 1 was distributed in November with a deadline to complete the survey by Friday, December 7. Phase 2 will be distributed in January 2013. Your feedback is important! The information received will be used to help better understand the perceptions and attitudes toward your work environment, so please take this [confidential survey](#) by December 7.

## ***To Your Benefit***

### ***Benefit Programs***

Welcome to a new academic year. 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.

### ***Successful Flu Vaccine Clinics***

Our third annual flu vaccine clinics on October 3 & 4 with Scott & White Clinic were a great success. Nearly 2,000 individuals (Texas A&M University System employees and their families) received the seasonal and H1N1 combined vaccine through an injection or nasal mist. If you missed the flu vaccine clinics, remember you can still contact your health care provider about receiving a flu vaccine. For information about influenza (flu) and the vaccine, visit [www.flu.gov](http://www.flu.gov) online.

### ***Retirement & Financial Planning Fair Recap***

Human Resources hosted a Retirement & Financial Planning Fair on November 13, in the Memorial Student Center, that was open to all employees of the Texas A&M University System. With over 500 individuals in attendance, the fair was a huge success thanks to the numerous quality speakers, informative exhibitors and dedicated staff of Human Resources volunteers. The fair showcased financial planning resources available to employees to help them enjoy increased financial well-being now and in the future at retirement.

The 15 educational sessions offered information such as estate planning, preventing identity theft, and personal and financial budgeting in addition to the traditional retirement planning sessions. This year's event also added community partners such as the

United Way, The A&M Foundation and local banking institutions to the exhibitors list, which all provided resources and giveaways. Our Exhibitor Hall prize drawings went to: **Karen Toole, Myong Ledesma, Amy Riechman** and **Christine Wallace**.

We look forward to an even bigger event next fall! Remember, it is never too early or too late to start saving for retirement. Take advantage of the resources you have available as an employee of Texas A&M University! For pre-retirement counseling or to begin the retirement process, call 979.862.4028 or email [benefits@tamu.edu](mailto:benefits@tamu.edu) to visit with a retirement professional or visit <http://employees.tamu.edu/employees/benefits/RetirementInfo.aspx> for more information.



## Common Ground



## Diversity and Inclusion in the Workplace

HR's Employee & Organizational Development (EOD) department supports the university's commitment to diversity by offering its newest certificate program, **Diversity and Inclusion in the Workplace**.

This program introduces participants to the benefits of a diverse workplace, raises awareness about their own perspectives and how their actions impact others, and offers strategies for creating and maintaining a workplace that not only accepts – but values – diversity. In addition to required workshops, participants will attend university and community events intended to broaden their cultural understanding and increase their awareness of diversity within the community.

For information on this and other diversity-related training and resources, please visit <http://EODinfo.tamu.edu/diversity> online. Also, read the EOD newsletter "EduEssentials" at <http://EODinfo.tamu.edu/newsletter.aspx>, published monthly, for more info about training programs.

## We'll Be Back in January

We hope you learned something new from this special mini-issue of *HR Express*! Watch for our official, FULL issue coming in January 2013!



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