



University Life Professional Development April 2026 Newsletter

Hi UL & Friends!

Happy April! There is so much great work happening throughout UL this month from the fantastic end of year programming taking place for students, supporting students with life transitions on the horizon with graduation and the end of year, to all the preparations for summer and welcoming our newly accepted Patriots to campus in the coming months. It is so powerful to see the work taking place and the impacts being made.

As you reflect on the work done in your unit over the year, we **STRONGLY** encourage you to consider submitting a UL Symposium Program Proposal. The submission deadline has been extended to **Monday, April 13, 2026**; details for programs are included below! And be on the lookout for our UL Symposium Registration going live in the coming weeks.

We hope you find time to take a pause and engage in the upcoming programs we have coming in UL Professional Development over this last month of the semester. We have sessions to support you in your administrative mindset, building supervision competency, and ongoing career development. Registration for each event is open and included below.

Don't forget our team offers professional development consultation services to support you and your team in the staff experience. Complete our [intake form](#) and let the adventure begin!

Warmly,

The UL Professional Development Team

Student Success Symposium Call for Programs!



Calling all faculty, staff, and graduate students – we want YOU to present at the 2026 University Life Student Success Symposium!

How? Submit a program proposal for the 2026 UL Student Success Symposium between NOW and **April 13**.

When? The UL Symposium Pre-Conference will be on **Tuesday, June 2, 2026**, and the UL Symposium will be held on **Wednesday, June 3, 2026**.

(Registration for the 2026 UL Student Success Symposium will go live in April 2026.)

Where? Join us at the Johnson Center on the George Mason University Fairfax Campus for this dynamic in-person conference

Note: Program proposals are due no later than Monday April 13, 2026, by Noon.

Proposal Submission Overview

Program submission guidelines, criteria for different program types, relevant competencies, and supporting materials are detailed on the [UL Symposium Call for Programs webpage](#).*

**Please review the information provided carefully, as the requirements are different than other professional organization-based conferences*

To submit a program proposal for either a Symposium educational session or a Pre-Conference workshop, **access the submission form [here](#)**.

We look forward to receiving your program proposals and seeing you on June 2nd & 3rd at the 2026 UL Student Success Symposium!

Sincerely,
2026 UL Student Success Symposium Planning Team

[Learn More on the Call for Programs Website](#)

[Submit your Program Here](#)

Complete Your 2026 Faculty Staff Experience Survey



The 2026 Faculty and Staff Experience Survey is open **NOW through April 21**. It is a HUGE opportunity for your voice to impact the staff experience!

Your feedback shapes real change. Results from the 2024 survey informed expanded well-being and recognition programs, and guided our investments in professional development and performance culture. This survey is how we keep building on that work.

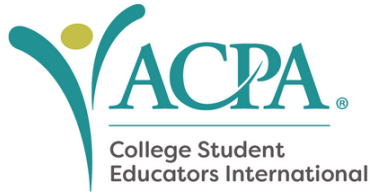
Quick Facts about the Faculty Staff Experience Survey:

- 1. Confidential.** George Mason partners with Gallup to administer the survey — your responses are never tied back to you individually.
- 2. Quick.** The survey takes about 10–15 minutes to complete.
- 3. Easy access.** Gallup has sent a unique link to your George Mason email when the survey opened on April 1, 2026. Note: The email subject is ""

For more information or if you have questions, please visit [the Faculty and Staff Experience Survey website](#) or email engagehr@gmu.edu.

ACPA Membership Free for Graduate & Undergraduate

Students!



*Announcement of **Free ACPA Memberships** for Master's and Undergraduate Students*

Have you heard? ACPA made a HUGE announcement at the ACPA Annual Convention last week!

Please see part of the announcement below.

"The ACPA-College Student Educators International Leadership Council and International Office are thrilled to announce, quite possibly, the most significant investment in the future of higher education in the Association's 102 years of bold leadership and transformation.

ACPA is proud to announce that beginning July 1 this year, membership will be **FREE for all degree-seeking Master's and Undergraduate students**. This is more than a benefit. It is a declaration—that ACPA believes the next generation belongs not at the margins of our work, but at the very center."

This announcement provides greater access to professional development in the field of student affairs for both Master's and Undergraduate students.

We greatly encourage supervisors of any graduate and undergraduate staff who are interested in pursuing a career in student affairs to share this information with them!

For the full announcement text, email us at ulprodev@gmu.edu.

Explore the ACPA Website Here

Upcoming Programs & Events

Partners in Progress

Partners in Progress

Are you working on a certificate program or other asynchronous course for professional development? Join *Partners in Progress* – a peer cohort designed to help you stay motivated and support you while you work towards completing your certificate.

This cohort is designed to help you:

-  **Build a supportive peer network for pursuing a certificate program**
-  **Identify milestones to move towards completing your certificate program**
-  **Engage with colleagues at monthly co-working sessions to maintain progress**

Join us at upcoming info sessions to find out more!

April 8th from 2PM to 2:30PM

April 20th from 11AM to 11:30AM



Sponsored by the UL Learning & Development Committee, and UL Professional Development



UNIVERSITY LIFE
George Mason University®

Are you working on a certificate program or other asynchronous course for professional development? Join the UL Learning & Development Committee's *Partners in Progress* peer cohort - designed to help you stay motivated and support you while you work towards completing your certificate.

We have two info sessions where you can learn more about *Partners in Progress*! We will go over the basics and answer any questions on April 8 and April 20.

Monthly co-working sessions will begin in June. Sessions will start with a quick check-in and update on progress. Participants will share their learning objective for the co-working session and then we will work independently for about 50 minutes. In the last 5 minutes participants will share what they achieved.

[Register Here](#)

Manager Meetup: Making Meetings Matter



Making Meetings Matter

Thursday, April 9, 2026 from 2:00PM – 3:00PM

Join the Supervision Collective for an interactive session focusing on strategies to increase engagement and effectiveness in the meetings you facilitate.

In the session, participants will:

- Identify areas of opportunities in their administration and facilitation of meetings
- Identify tools to increase staff engagement during meetings
- Engage in conversations on strategies to improve meeting effectiveness

Register Here: <https://ManagerMeetupApril2026.eventbrite.com>

Manager Meetup

Join the Supervision Collection for our monthly Manager Meetups! Sessions focus on various topics impacting supervisors and are interaction based between participants. All are welcomed in this space. You do NOT need to be a supervisor to attend!



Register Now

SCAN HERE



As managers and supervisors, we are often responsible for the planning and facilitation of meetings and we know that our schedules are FULL of meetings. It is safe to consider that we know when a meeting is a good one or a not so good one. So, how do we ensure the time we are spending in these spaces is an effective use of time and the information shared is valuable for our staff and ourselves?

Join the Supervision Collective for an interactive session focusing on strategies to increase engagement and effectiveness in the meetings you facilitate.

[Register Here!](https://ManagerMeetupApril2026.eventbrite.com)

UL Tech Tips: LinkedIn Learning

Spring 2026

UL TECH TIPS SERIES

14
April

LINKEDIN LEARNING

1:00 - 2:00 PM

Grow Skills that Grow Opportunities

- Upskill your career pathways
- Discover career-focused learning

Learn more on Eventbrite!



Register Here:

<https://ULTT-LinkedIn-Learning.eventbrite.com>



UNIVERSITY LIFE
George Mason University

Join us for our April UL Tech Tips session! Explore how to upskill and discover career pathways.

Register Here!

UL Productivity Power Hour - Spring Series!

PRODUCTIVITY POWER HOUR

UL FOCUS SESSION

Drop in
anytime!



Get work
done!

Join us at 11am every other
Friday this Spring!

JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY
16+30	13+27	13+27	10+24	8

REGISTER:

<https://UL-Productivity-Power-Hour.eventbrite.com>

Sponsored by University Life Professional Development



UNIVERSITY LIFE
George Mason University®

Feeling swamped with semester projects and deadlines? Join our Virtual Productivity Power Hour focus sessions and rediscover your motivation and momentum. In just one hour on Zoom, we've designed an environment that empowers you to make real progress on your projects.

Why Join?

- **Accountability:** Co-working in a virtual setting keeps you on track and accountable for your goals.
- **Resource Hub:** Get access to tools and tips that will enhance your productivity.
- **Colleague Support:** Share the virtual workspace with colleagues who are equally driven, making work feel less like work.

[Register Here](#)

UL Professional Development Consultation Services

University Life's Professional Development team is here to support you with customized consultations designed to meet your unique needs. Whether you're planning a team retreat, developing a training program, or seeking individual career coaching, we offer a range of services to help you achieve your goals.

Complete the intake form and let the adventure begin!



UNIVERSITY LIFE PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT CONSULTATION

Tailored Support for You and Your Team's Professional Development Journey

The University Life Professional Development team is here to help with everything from team retreats to individual coaching.

Complete our intake form to schedule an initial meeting. We'll help design a plan to support you and your team's unique goals and growth needs.

forms.office.com/r/d3EJJZVQcz



CONSULTATION SERVICES INCLUDE



Retreat Development
for Unit/Team



Customized Team
Training and
Workshops



Program Design



Graduate Professional
Assistantship
Development



Thought
Partnership/Brainstorming

CONTACT:

✉ ulprodev@gmu.edu

🌐 ulprofdev.gmu.edu



Consultation Services Intake Form

Visit the UL Professional Development calendar for more event listings and updates.

<https://ulprofdev.gmu.edu/calendar/>

Let's Get Connected!



[Manage](#) your preferences | [Opt Out](#) using TrueRemove™
Got this as a forward? [Sign up](#) to receive our future emails.
View this email [online](#).

4400 University Drive | Fairfax, VA 22030 US

This email was sent to .
To continue receiving our emails, add us to your address book.

emma®

[Subscribe](#) to our email list.