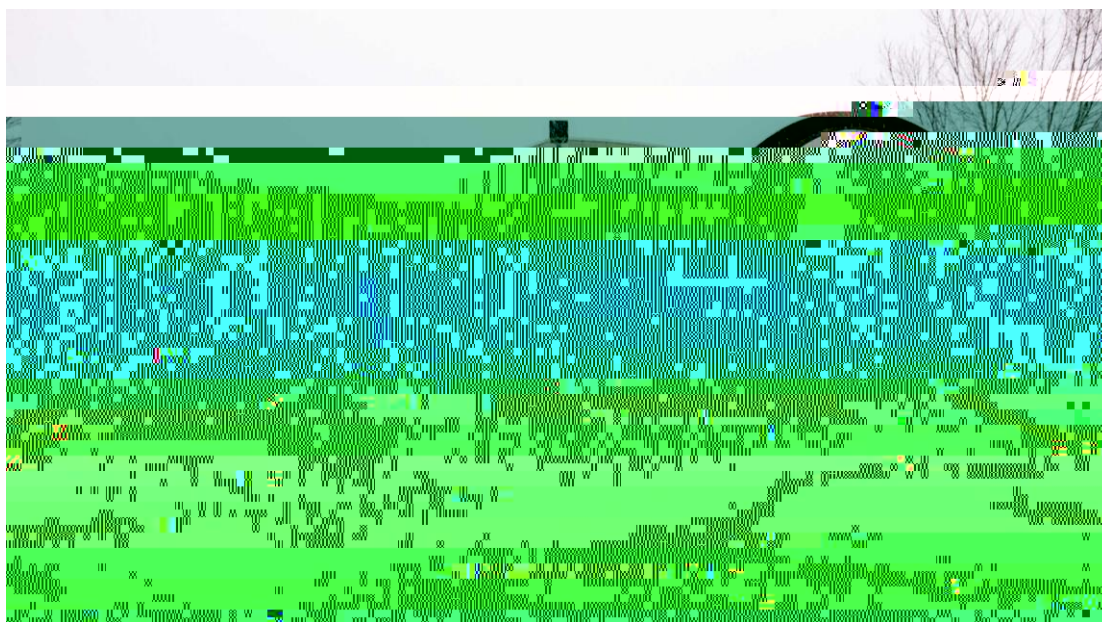


Happy New Year Catamounts! The fresh start of a new calendar year is always an exciting time filled with promises of growth, discovery, and success. January is also a great time to reconnect with familiar faces and extend a warm welcome to those joining our vibrant community for the first time. We hope the extended winter break was exactly what you needed it to be, and you are ready to dive into the Spring 2024 semester. Here's to a semester of academic exploration, collaborative learning, and shared achievements. Let's make it amazing!



Martin Luther King, Jr. Celebration

Under the direction of Intercultural Affairs, the WCU community gathers annually to celebrate and commemorate the lives and legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. and Coretta Scott King. The focus of the celebration is the concept of community. Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc. will kick things off by hosting the annual MLK, Jr. Unity March on Monday, January 15, 2024, at 11:00am beginning at the Central Plaza Fountain (Catafount). The week-long celebration will be Monday, January 22 through Friday, January 26. For a full schedule of events [click here](#).

Funding Availability for Intentional Learning and Campus Theme Initiatives

The Office for Undergraduate Studies has allocated all funding for Intentional Learning Grants and has limited funding remaining for our current campus theme (community and belongingness) initiatives. We appreciate the many requests for funding innovative and experiential opportunities this academic year and know that our students, faculty, and staff benefit from these experiences. We will notify WCU if unexhausted or additional funds become available this semester.

Faculty Relations Fellows

Dr. Candy Noltensmeyer, Associate Professor of Communications, and Dr. Siham Lekchiri, Associate Professor and Director of the MS program in Human Resources, continue to serve as our Faculty Relations Fellows. They are independent, neutral resources for problem resolution and can provide informal assistance to help resolve workplace issues or discuss faculty concerns without committing to pursuit of a formal resolution. If you would like to discuss an issue with one of these fellows, you can reach out to them directly.

Candy Noltensmeyer

Siham Lekchiri

Introducing New Civic Engagement Coordinator

As part of our institutional commitment to providing our students with a 21st Century education and fostering the development of engaged and informed citizens, the Center for Community Engagement and Service Learning is pleased to introduce Alyson Umberger, a recent WCU alumna and newly appointed coordinator for Civic Engagement. Originally from Graham, North Carolina, Alyson earned a bachelor's degree in political science and is enrolled in WCU's master's program in Public Affairs: "I am very passionate about voter's

development, and the assessment plan,

literacy and wellness program/resource development at its member institutions. Last year the UNC System Financial Literacy and Wellness Working Group conducted a survey that gathered information about the different types of financial literacy and wellness programs and models that were being employed across the UNC System. This information helped the Working Group establish a baseline for setting priorities by increasing understanding of financial wellness programs and activities in place at your institution.

This January, the Working Group is surveying all degree-seeking students across the UNC System about their knowledge of financial literacy and wellness. The students' responses will help the Working Group better understand the financial literacy and wellness needs of students at our institutions.