New Benefit to Assist Employees Who Pay for Commuting and Parking Expenses

Starting August 1, 2017, employees who do not have access to payroll deduction for WSU Transportation Services parking permits can participate in a pretax Commuter Benefit Program to address work-related commuter, parking, and vanpool expenses. Individuals could save up to 30% on commuter expenses!

In response to inquiries from employees around the state, WSU and Human Resource Services have partnered with WageWorks to provide a pretax benefit account that can be used to pay for public transportation and parking expenses including train, subway, bus, ferry, qualified parking, and vanpool expenses.

Employees already able to purchase their WSU Transportation Services parking passes via payroll deduction are not able to participate in this program. This benefit is for employees at WSU locations throughout the state in our various extension and other WSU work locations, as well as employees who participate in a vanpool program regardless of work location. Parking passes purchased from WSU Transportation Services and paid for through payroll deduction may already be benefiting from a pretax deduction.

Those who elect to set up a WageWorks account will be able to benefit from up to a $255-a-month, pretax transit-expense benefit, and/or a $255-per-month, pretax parking-expense benefit. If additional funds are needed for these expenses, additional deductions can be made on a post-tax basis.

To participate in the plan beginning August 1, 2017, employees are asked to complete and return a Commuter Benefit Account form to HRS in Pullman, and to then create a WageWorks account to purchase their transit passes, pay for non-WSU parking, or cover vanpool expenses. The WageWorks portal will open July 1, 2017.

This is a flexible benefit where deductions can be started, stopped, or changed at any time. To learn more about this program, including enrollment instructions, visit the HRS Commuter Benefit website.
Flexible Learning with HRS’ Skillsoft
Online training modules and ebooks that fit your schedule.

Most WSU employees know about the broad array of instructor-led trainings offered by Human Resource Services. Not everyone may know that HRS also offers a variety of online trainings and ebooks. Click the titles below to link to the resources.

**Undocumented Students Support Training**

Who are “dreamers?”

What does it mean when a student is “undocumented?”

These terms are frequently in the news and many people struggle with both the terminology and the impact of recent events.

This course provides WSU employees a framework for advising, supporting, and retaining undocumented students. Created by the University’s Office of Multicultural Student Services, it includes an overview of key legislation and best practice tips.

**Ebook:** *Hello Stay Interviews, Goodbye Talent Loss: A Manager’s Playbook*, by Beverly Kaye and Sharon Jordan-Evans

Worried that your talented people will want things you can’t deliver, like more money or a big promotion? Kaye and Jordan-Evans have a simple, four-step process for dealing with that.

Not sure how to get started? They provide dozens of suggested questions and icebreakers. Think you don’t have time? Discover all kinds of creative time-saving options for where, when, and how to do stay interviews.

Keep your valued employees engaged and on your team using this book’s tools and tips.

**Preretirement Seminar**

July 27, 2017, 9:30–11:00 a.m.
French Administration 139

**Modernization Initiative Updates**

Visit the Modernization Initiative website at [modernization.wsu.edu](http://modernization.wsu.edu) for updates on recent activities. Be sure to click on the Communications link and logon using your WSU network ID and password for full details.

**FEATURED TRAININGS**

**Cultural Competency Training**

7/5/17 9:00 a.m. to noon

**WSU Online Training System: Management Functions**

7/5/17 1:30–3:00 p.m.

**Communicating for Results**

7/12/17 1:30–4:00 p.m.

**Graduate Assistantship Processing**

7/18/17 9:00–10:00 a.m.

**Digital Classroom Building Training**

7/18/17 9:00–10:00 a.m.; 1:00–2:00 p.m.

**Whistleblower Act**

7/19/17 9:00–10:00 a.m.

**Keeping Up and Keeping Track**

7/19/17 1:00–3:00 p.m.

**Digital Classroom Building Tour**

7/20/17 9:00–10:00 a.m.

**Open Government Training**

7/25/17 1:00–4:00 p.m.

**Understanding the University Budget**

7/26/17 1:30–3:30 p.m.

**Payroll User Group Meeting**

7/27/17 10:00–11:00 a.m.