OU Administration Rolls Out System for Employee Evaluations

The Division of Research and Employee Services has recently secured new software that will improve Oakwood's hiring, development, and evaluation process of its employees. According to its website, NEOGOV is the market and technology leader in on-demand workforce management. "The new processes will provide the Department of Human Resource Management with a seamless electronic portal to increase precision in our employee selection and retention processes," said Dr. Prudence Pollard, vice president of research and employee services.

The first of the three-phase process creates an electronic system to begin the performance feedback conversation between supervisors and employees. Results from the conversations will suggest training topics for the soon-to-be-launched Oakwood Frontline Academy.

"The FrontLine Academy will complement the Oakwood University Leadership Academy for supervisors and will ensure a stronger employee workforce," said Pollard. This new service will be implemented campus-wide in February.

Oakwood Receives Commendation from Accreditation Body
Recently, Oakwood University received a commendation from the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges (SACSCOC) in regards to the revision of its general education section. SACSCOC is the regional body for the accreditation of degree-granting higher education institutions in the Southern states.

During the SACSCOC annual meeting in December 2013, a vice president of SACSCOC shared with the Oakwood administration that they were pleased with Oakwood's revision of the general education section. Dr. Garland Dulan, vice president for academic administration, and his team worked for six months on this section. According to President Pollard, SACSCOC is "touting" Oakwood's revision as a model response for universities.
Oakwood Alumni and Friends!

Same Dynamic concert...
New location.

Join us for a Dynamic Praise concert and a fellowship reception with alumni and friends!

Saturday, February 1, 2014
6:00-9:00 p.m.

Where?
Fondren Seventh-day Adventist Church
7950 W. Fuqua St.
Missouri City, TX 77489

Show your support...
We invite you to show your support to the university through a donation. Your gift makes you a partner in our mission to provide superior education.

For more details, email alumni@oakwood.edu
or call 256.726.7039
Raise a Leader Influences Leaders in South Africa

Dr. Pollard with one of 35 young trainees in South Africa.
(Photo: Southern African-Indian Ocean Division)

Last week, Dr. Prudence Pollard returned from leading a recent training session for more than 50 children's ministries leaders in Botswana, South Africa. The training centered around her book titled Raise a Leader. The training also involved 35 children, many of whom have declared Oakwood as their choice institution for higher learning. The proceeds from Raise a Leader creates scholarship money for students at Oakwood University. Click here to purchase a copy of Raise a Leader to help a student continue his/her educational journey at Oakwood University.

Festival of Spirituals VIII Scheduled for February 23
The public is invited to celebrate its eighth biannual Festival of Spirituals featuring world renowned Historically Black College and University Choirs. The program will be held in the Oakwood University Church at 3:00 p.m. on Sunday, February 23, 2014.

Nine HBCU choirs from Alabama, Georgia and Tennessee are expected to fill the air with music.

The program will begin with the Oakwood Elementary Speech Choir rendering James Weldon Johnson's "Lift Every Voice and Sing." Each school choir will present two spirituals, and individuals who have made significant contributions to the musical community will be recognized. The grand finale of the program will be the mass choir under the direction of Professor Julie Foster of Oakwood University, and Dr. Joel C. Jones of Alabama State University.

**Oakwood's LEAP Program Designed for Busy Adults**

Oakwood University's LEAP (Leadership Education for the Adult Professional) Adult Degree Completion Program is designed to help adults 25 and older who are employed full time to complete their degrees while continuing to work.

LEAP students can earn a bachelor's degree in Organizational Management, Psychology, Church Leadership, Information Technology, or General Studies. Classes are available year-round and meet one night a week or are taught partially online.

Click on the graphic for answers to frequently asked questions.

Additionally, LEAP staff will be available to answer your questions in person at the next information session, scheduled for Thursday, January 30, 2014, at 6:00 p.m. at the LEAP program office building, located at 4920 University Square in Huntsville.

**Mentors -- click this graphic to register for YMTF 2014!**
Pollard's Places

Today concludes the third session of the Theology of Ordination Study Committee (TOSC) meetings in Columbia, Md.

For four days, this Committee of international men and women received reports and presented papers on the topic.

As a member of this 103-person committee, we reviewed regional reports and offered input on how the Church should move forward in its understanding of ordination and whether women should be ordained in particular.

A full report will be prepared for sharing at the General Conference Session in San Antonio, Texas, in 2015. Please continue to pray for God's guidance on this very important process. ~ Dr. Leslie Pollard

OUPD Responds to SAU Situation

Yesterday's lockdown situation at Southern Adventist University in Collegedale, Tenn., caused a media frenzy on
television, newspapers and social media.

As soon as Oakwood University learned of what was happening, leadership and students paused and prayed for the safety of the faculty, staff, and students of their sister-school.

Lewis Eakins, director of the Oakwood University Police Department, said that he and his staff constantly review the safety policy and procedures at the University. "Our APOSTC (Alabama Peace Officers Standards and Training) certified police officers are trained to handle crisis situations and we have a strategy that covers various types of situations that could occur on campus."

We praise God that nothing worse happened at our sister-school.

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