

HR HIGHLIGHTS

SERVING. EMPOWERING. TRANSFORMING.



HR Highlights is the Official Newsletter of UNT System Human Resources.



FACULTY & STAFF

Spotlight

DONNA ASHER, PH.D.

Associate Vice Chancellor &
Deputy System Chief Human Resources Officer
Office of Human Resources
UNT System

Having started her UNT World career at UNT in 1991, [Donna Asher, Ph.D.](#), had pretty much seen it all. Then came March 2020 and the pandemic. "Beyond a shadow of a doubt, the pandemic greatly altered the role of HR," Asher says. While HR was suddenly figuring out how to operate in a new and unknown environment, it also had to help every other department figure it out, too. Holding three degrees from UNT, Asher bleeds Mean Green and got her first taste of HR as an undergrad student assistant. She went on to serve in roles in HR and the provost's office before joining UNT System in 2011. When she's not busy making our work lives better, you might find her doting on her granddaughter, unwinding to her favorite Whitney Houston tune or taking in a movie -- preferably a story of enduring love with a little action mixed in (check out her two faves). Click the button below and get to know Donna Asher.

[READ MORE](#)

If you'd like to nominate a faculty or staff member to spotlight, please email communications@untsystem.edu.

 **This Just In!** News, Notes & Resources

BLACK HISTORY MONTH

DID YOU KNOW?



BLACK
HISTORY MONTH
FACTS

UNT SYSTEM CELEBRATES BLACK HISTORY MONTH

February is Black History Month, a celebration of Black individuals who -- through courage, excellence and determination to break down racial and ethnic barriers -- have made significant contributions in civil rights, politics, science, the arts, our communities and other areas over the course of history. UNT World is proud to present throughout the month our "Did You Know?: Black History Month Facts" series and "Black History Month: Excellence in Our Community" video series. [Learn more about Black History Month.](#)

DID YOU KNOW?: The heart of Denton's music scene resides at UNT's College of Music and its original jazz studies program, but its soul was nourished by the [city's many homegrown Black musicians](#). Few know that [Sylvester Stewart](#) of Sly and the Family Stone was born in Denton in 1943. Saxophonist [Herschel Evans](#) was born in Denton in 1909 and is credited for pioneering a Texas Tenor Sax lineage that still swings today. And before Denton's beloved [Fred Moore](#) turned to education for his vocation, he was a bandleader in the early 1900s, having organized a 14-piece band that got people swaying all over the county, *even playing at white people's dances.*

TODAY AT 1 P.M.! -- BLACK HISTORY MONTH CELEBRATION EVENT: Join the UNT System Office of DEI in celebrating Black History Month virtually with special guest [Kaplan Mobray](#), best-selling author, motivational speaker and acclaimed innovator. Join this virtual event at this link: <https://unt.zoom.us/j/83802589283>.

EXCELLENCE IN OUR COMMUNITY VIDEO SERIES: Our final video (below) features Anne Alaniz, DO, who grew up in rural Malawi, a country in southeast Africa, where disease was widespread in her youth. At age 17, she came to America and graduated with a medical degree from the UNT Health Science Center. Today, Dr. Alaniz works in Houston as a gynecological oncologist, and she also founded a women's and children's health care facility, orphanage and school in her home country. Watch as Dr. Alaniz tells her story.



UNT System HR brings you UNT World experts with this periodic and always timely installation called "Ask An Expert." So, let's ask...

EXPERT: [Ajamu Loving, Ph.D.](#), serves as assistant professor of finance at UNT Dallas. Having earned his Ph.D. in Personal Financial Planning from Texas Tech, where he was an AT&T Chancellor's Fellow, Dr. Loving has dedicated his life to making financial planning more accessible and to diversify reach. It's no wonder he landed at UNT Dallas, our southern Dallas campus created to close the education gap. At universities and colleges across the country, Black males are severely underrepresented. This is an issue that Dr. Loving is passionate about reversing. In our latest "Ask an Expert" series, Dr. Loving discusses why

this problem exists, what can be done about it, what UNT Dallas is doing to recruit and enroll more Black male students and the consequences if campuses fail to increase the number of Black males pursuing college degrees.

READ MORE

Share your appreciation for team members & colleagues on March 4

National Employee Appreciation Day is Friday, March 4, and we want to recognize great team members and colleagues across UNT World through a social media appreciation campaign. Here's how it works:

1. **ON MARCH 4**, log on to your Facebook, Twitter, Instagram or LinkedIn account and, if you don't already, follow @UNTSysystem ([Facebook](#) | [Twitter](#) | [Instagram](#) | [LinkedIn](#)).
2. **CREATE A POST** that tags @UNTSysystem, includes the hashtag #UNTWorldAppreciation and recognizes an employee or co-worker you appreciate (example: @UNTSysystem I appreciate my colleague INSERT NAME for being a supportive teammate at INSERT INSTITUTION #UNTWorldAppreciation).



There's no limit to the number of UNT World employees you can recognize. All employees recognized via posts on Facebook, Twitter, Instagram or LinkedIn will be entered into a random drawing to win UNT System apparel.



Warmer days are just around the corner >> Benefits available to UNT World faculty & staff

This February weather is certainly frightful, but we all know Spring -- and Spring Break -- is right around the corner. Whether you're looking to have a little fun in the sun out of town or staying local, your UNT World benefits can help you save money on everything from hotels and rental cars to discounts on theme parks and other entertainment venues. Head over to the [UNT System HR](#) website, hover over "Benefits" and click on "[Perks](#)." Under "Discount Programs," click on "[PerksConnect](#)." Log in or sign up and begin searching for your Spring Break discounts.





HSC promotes one leader, hires another to serve in key roles

Jessica Rangel (pictured left/top) was recently promoted to [Executive Vice President of Health Systems](#) at HSC after serving for five years as the university's Senior Vice President of Clinical Innovation. Her new role will allow Rangel to work toward redesigning the way the university focuses on health care. Also, [HSC has hired Waridibo Allison](#) as the new Vice President of Health Policy and founding Director of the new Center for Health Policy within the division of Research and Innovation. Dr. Allison will also serve as Associate Professor in the Texas College of Osteopathic Medicine in the Department of Medical Education. She begins her new roles on March 15.



HR UPDATE

UNT System Human Resources has numerous programs and tools available at no cost to assist you with health or well-being issues, work-life balance, financial issues and more. Explore your [UNT System benefits](#), and follow this space weekly for tips, programs and promotions.

>> **JOB OPENINGS WITH UNT DINING SERVICES:** Help spread the word that [UNT Dining Services has multiple job openings](#) within its award-winning team, including: Senior food service managers, senior banquet manager, sous chef and graphic designer, as well as a number of food service operations positions. Drop-in interviews are held every Friday from 1 -- 4 p.m. at the UNT [Support & Services Building](#) or use [Calendly](#) to schedule an interview.

>> **TAX PREP 2022:** Filing a federal tax return can be a tedious and time-consuming task, so it's never too early to start preparing. Keep in mind: The deadline for filing individual returns for the 2021 tax year is April 15. [Our tax tips](#).

 **Save The Date.** UNT World Well-Being Calendar.

Upcoming well-being opportunities from UNT World HR.

Follow us on [Twitter](#) and [Facebook](#); Visit our [website](#)

Fitness Connect Community Discussion: Start with Tiny Habits
[March 8, 10 a.m.](#)

Saving in a 529 College Plan
[March 8, 11 - 11:30 a.m.](#)

Halfway there: A Retirement Savings Checkup

[March 9, 11 a.m. -- 12 p.m.](#)

Beneficiary Designation Considerations

[March 10, 1 - 1:30 p.m.](#)

Money at Work 1: Foundations of investing

[March 17, 3 -- 3:30 p.m.](#)

Help Protect You, Your Family and Your Money

[March 22, 12 p.m. -- 12:30 p.m.](#)

Tax Plan Considerations

[March 24, 11 -- 11:30 a.m.](#)

Charting Your Course: A Financial Guide for Women

[March 22, 2 -- 3 p.m.](#)



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If you have an HR question or topic you'd like covered in the newsletter, please email HR@untsystem.edu.



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