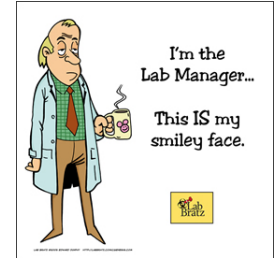


Lab Manager Community of Practice

Providing Resources and Networking Opportunities for Lab Management Professionals at UW-Madison



Meeting Date: December 14, 2017
Topic: Social networking and CoP debriefing

The Lab Manager Community of Practice (CoP) is a community is for anyone who is in a lab management role including research labs, core labs and instructional labs.

Meeting Highlights:

Nicole L. Schmidt reviewed the demographics of the Lab Manager CoP including departments and titles. These demographics are available on the Lab Manager website, <https://manager.labs.wisc.edu/>

The origins and the purposes of the group is to provide networking for lab professionals including sharing of equipment, ideas and resources. The group provides discussions and training on lab management, employee and student supervision, and many other topics. We provide a directory of shared resources, a “Craig’s List” for campus lab managers.

A summary of our previous topics includes personnel management, purchasing tips and resources, “Bucky Submit” and networking opportunities. All these topics are summarized and posted on our website.

The participants discussed the aspects of the meetings and group that they appreciate as well as ideas for future meetings and events.

What Works Now

- The forums provide useful knowledge at every meeting; the topics relate to my job and duties
- The group communication is effective; the website is a real and kept up to date
- Email correspondence is timely and effective
- FOOD is FREE and catered
- There is a diverse set of topics, and not repetitive
- Many diverse groups across campus participate in the meetings; gives a chance to connect to other schools
- FREE: budget conscious and the group doesn't charge dues
- Collaborative and inclusive, no job or position is excluded
- Many different backgrounds in the participants; anyone is welcome from experienced manager to a new employee
- Time and location is good

The Future

- ⇒ Website
 - include a discussion board or creative forum
 - Interest survey
 - Events list
 - Ask an expert
- ⇒ Potential activities
 - tours of campus buildings
- ⇒ Potential meeting topics:
 - Project management apps
 - Rotate topics such as business functions and budget management
 - Supervisor training
 - respect in the workplace
 - Well in workplace
- ⇒ Mentor/mentee relationships
- ⇒ Future plans
 - All day symposium