Chair’s Message

Twelve months ago, I took the baton to serve as the chair of the University Classified Staff Council (UCSC). I can honestly say it has been quite a ride filled with excitement in every sense of the word. We had many new members who came ready to take part in making a difference wherever they could through the UTHealth community via UCSC.

This year, the council has implemented and reestablished a few controls that would help with streamlining some processes while keeping everything transparent to all. Some of these processes were very time consuming, but the time devoted was time well spent.

One of the many successes for the council this year was the UCSC Annual Workshop. This year, the workshop had the theme “Superheroes, Safety First.” For a safety informational session, the superheroes theme made the event a safety class balanced with a sense of humor while filled with information we all need on a daily basis. A job well done by the UCSC Staff Recognition committee, chaired by Ms. Tawaki “Koko” L. Taylor.

In addition to the informational aspect of the workshop, the main highlight of it year after year, is to present the college bound high school graduates of UTHealth classified staff employees with monetary awards to assist with their college expenses. This year, UCSC was able to offer a total of $27,500 in monetary awards ranging from $500 to $3,500 to a record number of 18 UTHealth classified staff high school graduates college bound students. These awards were made possible by the generous donations and financial support from the president’s office, Safety Health Environment and Risk Management, the UCSC educational awards committee fundraising efforts, and personal donations of various UTHealth community faculty and staff.

This year as every year in the past, members of the council, put forth their best effort of supporting the council to ensure a successful year. Without the support of each member, the efforts of the council would be lost. As the council grows and seek opportunities to engage the UTHealth community, it is important for department leaders to understand that their role in supporting the UTHealth Classified Staff Council is also a critical element in the continued success of the organization.

This term was quite an experience. Many things went very well. Some things I believe I could have done differently for a better result. Nevertheless, there are no regrets and I wish every member, both current and past, the very best and hope each of you continue to believe you can make a difference as you work towards the continued success of UCSC.

Thanks to every member, non-voting member, ex-officios, alternates and appointees. Without your support, I could not have made it through this term. Thank you for all you have done to support the UCSC to date.

JR Bright, MBA, eMPA
UCSC Chair 2016-17