

News from HR

August 4, 2021



Welcome Back!

After more than a year, Clark employees began returning to campus this week — and we were thrilled to see so many of you at Monday’s Welcome Back Lunch. Thank you to our Facilities Management colleagues and Sodexo/Dining Services for making it possible for us to reconnect after so many months of seeing each other only in Zoom boxes on a computer screen.

We’d also like to give a special shout-out to all of the essential employees who have remained on campus throughout the pandemic, including Facilities Management and University Police. We appreciate your commitment to keeping campus running!

If you have any questions about your return to work, or your hybrid on-campus/work-from-home schedule, please speak with your supervisor or [read our Return to Work FAQs](#).

Inside? Mask Up

Our return to campus coincides with the CDC raising the level of COVID-19 community transmission to “Substantial” in Worcester County. As a result, the agency now recommends that everyone, including the fully vaccinated, wear a mask in public indoor settings, and Clark will follow the CDC guidelines at a minimum.

Anyone in the Clark community working on campus must wear a mask in **all public indoor settings**, including **open-air cubicle areas and shared work spaces**.

More details about Clark’s COVID protocols for the fall semester will be shared in a communication next week.

Thank you for your commitment to keeping Clark healthy.

Help Us Welcome New (and Returning) Clarkies to Campus

In just a few weeks, campus will be buzzing as students return. The Dean of Students, Student Leadership and Programming, and Residential Life and Housing offices are preparing to welcome more than 700 new residential, commuter, and transfer students on **Thursday, August 19**, and **Friday, August 20**; and more than 1,600 returning students will move in on **Saturday, August 21**.

All Clark staff and faculty are invited to join in providing a warm, caring, and festive experience for all of our students and their families. A number of three-hour shifts are available, and volunteer options include physical and non-physical jobs.

[Click here](#) to register as a volunteer **by the end of the business day on Friday, August 6**.

Exempt employees who volunteer for one weekend shift will receive a half-day of floating holiday time, or a full day if they volunteer for two shifts. For non-exempt employees, please note that in addition to your regular hours, if you volunteer, your total hours worked for the week cannot exceed 40 hours, and you will also receive floating holiday time.

Retirement Education Opportunities

TIAA and Fidelity offer live webinars each month to help you with your financial goals. You do not need to be enrolled with either company to access the webinars, which also are available for viewing on demand.

TIAA

[Register here for access](#) to the webinars and other resources. If you are not enrolled in a TIAA retirement account, you may register for guest access. In August, live webinars will cover topics including how to manage risk versus reward, ways to market-proof your retirement, strategies for creating a diversified income plan, specific challenges faced by women in saving for retirement, Social Security strategies for married couples, and insights into your current financial situation.

Fidelity

[Visit the Fidelity Learning Center](#) to find live and on-demand webinars and other resources. Live webinars in August will include corporate bond investing, how to identify and analyze chart patterns, strategies for student loan debt, investing outside of the U.S., diversification and model portfolios, and a deep dive into Bitcoin.

Back to School Advice from Clark's Employee Assistance Program

Getting a new school year off to a good start can influence your child's attitude, confidence, and performance, both socially and academically. After the ups and downs of remote learning over the past school year, it might take some extra adjusting this time around. Even children who are eager to return must adapt to the greater levels of activity, structure and for some, pressures associated with school life.

Parents can help children manage the increased pace by planning ahead, being realistic, and maintaining a positive attitude. [Click here](#) for some tips from New Directions Behavioral Health, the University's Employee Assistance Program (EAP).

The EAP provides confidential, free assessments and referral services for legal and financial needs, child care, crisis support, mental health treatment, lifestyle coaching, substance abuse treatment, and more. Visit [New Directions Behavioral Health](#); our company code is "Clark University."

Resources and Opportunities

- Find previous employee newsletters [here](#).
- The University's ombudsperson, Israela Brill-Cass, is an informal, confidential, neutral, and independent resource for staff and faculty who want to discuss any topic without fear of retaliation or judgment. [Click here](#) to learn more and make an appointment.
- LinkedIn Learning offers a vast catalog of courses covering technical and professional skills, as well as personal development. [Learn more here](#).
- Visit [ClarkNow](#) for the latest news from campus, and check out where Clark faculty and staff experts appear [in the media](#).
- Learn about employment opportunities at Clark by visiting the [Job Opportunities](#) page on the [Office of Human Resources](#) website.



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