



JUNE 24, 2025

SPOTLIGHT ON RISE COMMITTEE

LIVE THE VALUES: LET A QUOTE HELP GUIDE YOU

Sometimes, the simplest tools can make the biggest impact. Using quotes to reflect and reinforce our organizational values is one easy way to stay connected to the culture we’re building together.

One of the resources in our We Play to Win toolkit is the [Be BOLD Quote Cards](#)—a collection of inspiring quotes that embody our values and help us live them more intentionally.

Is there a value that’s especially meaningful to you—or one you’re working on strengthening? Here are a few ways you can use quotes to bring that value to life:

- **Make it visible.** Write a quote that speaks to your chosen value on a sticky note, whiteboard or desktop background. Let it serve as a daily reminder of who you want to be at work.
- **Use it to lift others up.** When you’re recognizing a teammate, share a quote that reflects the value they demonstrated. It makes your appreciation even more memorable.
- **Center yourself before a conversation.** Heading into a big meeting or tough conversation? Take a moment to recite a quote that aligns with the mindset you want to bring—whether it’s clear communication, accountability or teamwork.

Find a quote that sticks and let it help guide how you show up, serve and lead every day.

NEWS AND INFORMATION

POLICY UPDATES

As part of our efforts to enhance our policies and processes, the Legal & Policy team recently updated the [MOU Process](#) and the [Patron Code of Conduct Policy](#). Here’s a highlight of the updates:

- **Making Partnerships Stronger and Smoother:** We’ve updated how we draft and track Memorandums of Understanding (MOUs)—the formal agreements we use when partnering with community organizations, individuals, businesses, and others. MOUs help define

7/7/2025

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
29	30	1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12

expectations, responsibilities and shared goals, creating healthier and more predictable working relationships. By standardizing our MOU process, we’re ensuring all agreements are consistent, trackable and fair—for everyone involved.

- **Creating Safer, More Welcoming Community Centers:** Our updated Patron Code of Conduct applies to everyone visiting or participating in activities at community centers—including patrons, volunteers, staff and guests. This policy reinforces our commitment to providing a safe, inclusive and respectful environment across all community centers, events, programs and rentals. It sets clear behavioral expectations to make sure everyone feels welcome and supported in our spaces.

Take a moment to review the complete information; both documents are available on the intranet under the Policy box.

SHARE YOUR QUESTIONS FOR LEADERSHIP

The next Quarterly Staff Leadership Meeting is Tuesday, July 228, 1-3 p.m., at 1111 E. Broad St., Continental Room. Don’t miss this opportunity to ask your burning questions! [Submit your questions online](#) (anonymously if you’d like) for a chance to have them answered live or featured in the Rise Together newsletter.

Quick Note: We’re looking for questions that matter to the whole team. If you have a personal issue or concern, your supervisor or HR representative is the best person to help.

TIME TO RESET YOUR PASSWORD

We’re coming up on the one-year anniversary of last year’s citywide password reset. If you last updated your password between July 25–27, 2024, it’s almost time to change it again.

To avoid system slowdowns, DoT will be rolling out early password updates in alphabetical waves rather than all at once. But if you’d like to beat the rush, you can reset your password now.

Password requirements:

- 16 characters minimum
- At least one uppercase and one lowercase letter
- At least one number
- Can’t include your username
- Can’t repeat an old password

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31	1	2

July 7

All day

Session 4 Registration Opens at Fran Ryan Center

KEY DATES

JULY

All Out Employee Resource Group: Queerifying Columbus-Life as an LGBTQ Person

July 6 | 2-3:30 p.m. | 1111 E. Broad St., Continental Room

Bring Your Section to the Park Day: CREATE Culture Event

July 16 | 9 a.m.-noon | Whetstone Park

CREATE Culture Committee: Staff Social

July 18 | 4-7 p.m. | Jazz & Rib Fest

Quarterly Leadership Staff Meeting

July 22 | 1-3 p.m. | 1111 East Broad St.

AUGUST

CREATE Culture Committee: Staff Social

Aug. 21 | 4-7 p.m. | Wayne Webb’s Columbus Bowl

SEPTEMBER

CREATE Culture Committee: Staff Social

Sept. 18 | 4-7 p.m. | Land-Grant Brewing

Pro Tip: If you change your password on your work computer, don't forget to update it on all other devices—especially mobile phones using CMH-Employee Wi-Fi. Those devices don't auto-update!

DAYFORCE TIP: CLOCK-IN SUPPORT FOR OFF-SITE STAFF

Managers: Hosting an event, camp or program where staff aren't at their usual location? If you need clock-in and out capabilities, don't go straight to DoT.

Instead, reach out first to Eric Potts at EEPotts@columbus.gov or 614-724-5549 or Kori DeFelice at KMDeFelice@columbus.gov or 614-645-7570. They'll help determine the best solution and coordinate with DoT if needed. In some cases, we may need to update staff profiles or take additional steps beyond just setting up a clock-in device.

CREATE CULTURE: CELEBRATE THE WORK THAT CONNECTS US ALL

Join the CREATE Culture Committee at Whetstone Community Center on Wednesday, July 16, for Bring Your Section to the Park Day, a fast-paced, fun-filled morning designed to help us better understand—and appreciate—the incredible work happening across our department.

From Forestry to Recreation, Parks to Sports, Design & Construction to Conservation, every section plays a role in making the department a powerful force in our community. This event is your chance to explore that work firsthand, build connections across teams and celebrate the impact we create together.

Self-paced tours begin at 9 a.m. and will run every 15 minutes or so. Each station will share a quick 15-minute demo or highlight—and you'll rotate through them on foot. Plus, take part in a Scavenger Hunt and enter to win a prize (even if you can't stay all day).

After your tour, enjoy a **free** hot dog lunch with chips, cookies and a drink (vegetarian option available). Lunch will be served between 11 a.m.-1 p.m. Registration is required for lunch; [register today](#).

Whether you're new to the department or have been here for years, this is a great opportunity to see what your colleagues do every day and leave with a deeper appreciation for the big picture.

REINVESTING IN YOU

NEW PARTNERSHIP EXPANDS ACCESS TO HIGHER EDUCATION FOR CITY EMPLOYEES

The City of Columbus is excited to announce a [new education partnership with the University of Phoenix](#), giving city employees more affordable access to college degrees and professional development.

This collaboration is part of the City's continued investment in workforce development and employee growth. Whether you're looking to finish your degree, level up your skills or start something entirely new, this opportunity can help you take the next step—without breaking the bank.

Here's how it works: For every five courses you complete toward your degree, you'll receive your next course free. That could mean a savings of more than \$7,000 on a bachelor's degree and over \$2,000 on a master's degree.

Want to learn more? [Register for an upcoming information session](#) and explore how this partnership can support your goals.

TRAINING

Check out these upcoming training opportunities.

- July 30: [Valuing Urban Forests as Critical Infrastructure for Resilience](#), City Parks Alliance
- September: [Climate Resilience and Parks](#), City Parks Alliance

All staff are members of City Parks Alliance; reset your password to log in and register.

PROFESSIONAL ACHIEVEMENTS

Have you recently earned a degree, award or certification? [Let us know, and we will share your accomplishment in the newsletter!](#)

STAFF SPOTLIGHT

NOMINATE A COWORKER FOR THE STAFF SPOTLIGHT

[Fill out this form to nominate a coworker.](#) The employee and their assistant director will be notified that they were nominated.

ARCHIVE