



# Getting to know...

## Allie Messersmith-Mars

Chair Events and  
Hospitalities Committee,  
Communication  
Committee Member,  
Regional Membership  
Specialist, RMS  
Statewide Program  
Participant

---

**Genetics Instructional  
Support**

Biological Sciences



*Hi, I'm Allie! I have been with the university for six years now. I am a Preparator for the Genetics Lab in the Biology Department. I am also a co-chair of the Events and Hospitalities committee and a member of the Membership, Outreach, and Communication Committees.*

## QUESTION & ANSWER

### **Tell me about your job and why you love what you do?**

*I set up the labs for the students taking the Genetics Lab. I work in animal husbandry by caring for *Drosophila melanogaster* (fruit flies). I never pictured myself in this position but I love that I get to care for these little guys! We tend to see them as pests but after working with them for six years I've grown fond of them.*

### **How did you get involved with UUP?**

*I first got involved with UUP by attending one of the first Coffee and Donuts. A few of my colleagues in my department were going through issues regarding their Performance Programs and we decided to attend the event to ask some questions. We ultimately got our questions answered and I decided to see how I could further get involved in the chapter.*

### **How do you make a difference?**

*I volunteered to be the Union Rep for Biology which means I act as sort of a liaison between the UUP Chapter and my department. Anyone who has issues/questions/concerns can reach out to me and I try to get them addressed by the right person within the chapter. As a co-chair of the Events and Hospitalities committee, I like to think that I bring people across campus together at the Coffee and Breakfast Bites events. It's been a work-in-progress but, I think it's had a positive impact on campus engagement throughout the chapter. I've really enjoyed having those morning conversations with members!*

### **What about your community engagement; any hobbies?**

*I recently picked up crocheting and have been enjoying it a lot! I just started on my first granny-square blanket so if anyone has any tips, I welcome them!*