



March 2026



ECCFA NEWS

The Sentinel: Elgin Community College Faculty Association Newsletter

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ECCFA President's Message

It's hard to believe that my first term as ECCFA President is already nearing an end. If you've checked the [ECCFA Nominations](#) sheet (we still have openings!), you may have seen my name as a nominee for President. I told anyone who asked that if I survived the contract negotiations intact, I would put my name forward to run for one more term. I've learned so much during my first two years that it almost feels like a waste not to do one more before I step aside for the next leader.

Speaking of future leaders, I've never been comfortable with organizations who have officers who serve for long terms. When I went to the IFT Convention in October, there were multiple unions with presidents who had served for 10, 15, or even 20+ years. This just doesn't feel healthy to me. One of the strengths of the ECCFA is our leadership depth. We have so many members who willingly offer their time and expertise in a variety of roles to serve the union. We'll have an opportunity again this summer to attend Union Leadership training through the IFT. Look for more information soon about those sessions, and consider signing up!

I'd like to end this letter by again thanking all those who supported your negotiating team during the bargaining process. You made a difference. Your continued acts of solidarity in small ways and your presence at the January Board of Trustees meeting made clear to the Board's team that we had the support of our members. That's the true power of a union.

Enjoy some of these Union Photos:
 ECC and Waubonsee faculty picket before the ECC Board meeting on January 27th 2026. And as President, I couldn't resist taking a selfie during the January 27th Board of Trustees meeting. The image doesn't really show how much BLUE there was!

In Unity,
 Dan Kernler, Prof. of Mathematics -
 President, ECCFA, IFT Local #3791



Keep in Touch with ECCFA

[Facebook.com/ECCFaculty](https://www.facebook.com/ECCFaculty)

www.eccfaculty.org



Top New Contract Details to Know!

Here are some of the top new items to know about in the new Collective Bargaining Agreement:

1. The Unit Adjunct Faculty II salary schedule now has 9 full steps. Previously, we had 5 steps that were each 4.5% of the base for that lane, then steps 6 & 7 were 2% of the base. Now there are 9 steps, and all steps are 4.5% of the base for that lane.
2. Two additional steps were added to the full-time salary schedule! It's more complicated than that, as we removed the first two steps, had to adjust step placement, and add a one-time stipend to balance the effect of increasing the base salary.
3. Base load for Unit Adjunct Faculty II is now 12 hours. This means that during the initial load selection process, UAF2 may select up to 12 credit or contact hours.
4. There is now a stipend for faculty who have two courses merged together. This should only occur in courses that are sequential in nature and at risk for cancellation due to low enrollment. Courses can't be merged without first consulting with the faculty member. See Section 6.21 for full details on this new language.
5. We have sick days in the summer! Faculty may use 2 accrued sick days in the summer. This includes adjunct faculty, who may use days that previously accrued for the purpose of SURS retirement only.

Of course, there was a lot more that was accomplished, but these are just a few of the highlights. Thanks to all who supported us!

We're still looking for additional adjunct senators! Senate meets on Zoom every other Wednesday from 3:20-4:50. It's crucial that all units are represented on Senate, so please consider volunteering. Contact [Chris Cunningham](#), Elections Chair, for more info.

Congratulations

Congratulations to the recipients of the 2026 Orrin G. Thompson Teaching Excellence Award!

Dr. Ignacio Alvarez-Garcia:
Professor I of Spanish
Ms. Jeanne Anderson:
English Unity Adjunct Faculty

ECCFA COPE "Third Thursday" MEETING

ECCFA's Committee on Political Education

Thursday, April 16th at 4pm
Grumpy Goat Tavern
(Free First Drink & Appetizers)

ECCFA members stage a walk in on Opening Day for Spring 2026!

Under Construction

Elgin Community College Faculty Association

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The ECCFA Website is under construction! Since the passing of our dear former ECCFA Webmaster Tammy Ray, our website has been in a holding pattern. We are excited to finally be moving forward with a new website, hosted by our parent union, The American Federation of Teachers (AFT). The new website will have a members-only section that will require a sign-in, so we will be able to store more documentation than we could on the old website, which was completely public. Our new Webmaster, Lauren Sullivan, is hard at work gathering and organizing the vast archive of documents that need to be moved over to the new website's shell. Be on the lookout for a call for volunteers to help with this process. In the meantime, please contact your Senator if you need Minutes from 2025-2026 or other documentation that isn't on the old website.

Newly Tenured ECC Staff

Congratulations to all those who were awarded tenure at the March 10th 2026 Board of Trustees meeting!

Instructor of Mathematics,
Kari Farooqie
Assistant Professor II of Truck Driving,
Brian Hamm
Assistant Professor I of Applied Physical Science,
Dr. Bailey Zo Kreager
Assistant Professor I of Biology,
Dr. Jennifer Maxwell
Assistant Professor II of Mathematics,
Richard McBride
Instructor of Welding,
Mr. Kyle Witek