

October 2021

Thank you Thank you Thank you

Cheryl Thayer, President
Mary Hope, Vice President
Cindy Del Medico, Treasurer
Linda Berendsen, Secretary
John Bishop, Negotiations & Grievances
Room 2470 DP
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What is the AFA?

It's *your* union, protecting and fighting for the rights of all adjuncts covered under the bargaining agreement between the college and the AFA (anyone teaching at least six LHE's in any of the three previous terms).

Fall 2021 Payroll Dates

Payroll dates for this semester:
 October 15, 29, Nov. 12, 26,
 Dec. 10, 24
 AFA dues are taken from the paychecks.

Welcome, New AFA Members!

Jane Garsenstein: Business, Public Health, and the Cannabis program.
Nancy Bialik, Librarian
Paul Gross, Division of STEM and Health Careers

Meetings of the OCC Board of Trustees

Oct. 19, Nov. 16, and Dec. 14 at 7:30 p.m.

A sincere thank you from AFA President Cheryl Thayer and the AFA negotiating team to the AFA members who have supported the team both morally and financially, recognizing the long hours the team has spent negotiating the best contract possible for AFA members as well as all adjuncts. We also thank you for your patience as we all bear with the team during this long process.

AFA Virtual Office Hours at Noon, October 15.

Stop in for the AFA Virtual Office Hours at 12:00, October 15. Board members will be available on Zoom to answer questions and hear comments; you are also invited to attend the virtual AFA Board meeting which follows. *Here is the Zoom link:*

Join Zoom Meeting
<https://oakton.zoom.us/j/95536503305?pwd=UHJlQ1RlVWVQzQVlhWmPQYUg2UTlxUT09> Meeting ID: 955 3650 3305 Passcode: 8Hi6a8ZH
 One tap mobile +13017158592,,95536503305#,,,,*27207189# US (Washington DC) +13126266799,,95536503305#,,,,*27207189# US (Chicago).

Future AFA Office Hours: Nov. 12 and Dec. 3 from 9-10 a.m.
AFA Board meetings will be on Nov. 19 and Dec. 10 at 1:00.

Plan ahead for Spring term and put the next AFA Membership Meeting on your calendar. We'll meet on Wednesday during Spring Term Orientation Week.

Got D2L Questions? Come to CPD's Virtual Walk-In hours

No appointment is needed – just click on the Zoom links below.

- Tues., Oct. 19, 11-12:30 pm, Kayla Mitchell, <https://oakton.zoom.us/j/94252641637>
- Thurs., Oct. 28, 4-5 pm, Kayla, <https://oakton.zoom.us/j/98522077325>
- Mon, Nov. 8, 3:45-5 pm, Kayla, <https://oakton.zoom.us/j/99365486784>
- Tues., Nov. 23, 11-12:30 pm, Kayla, <https://oakton.zoom.us/j/96310093883>
- Tues., Dec 7, 4-5 pm, Kayla, <https://oakton.zoom.us/j/94924534346>

Kayla Mitchell is the Faculty D2L Liaison.

Can You Use Some Extra Tech for Teaching?

The Center of Teaching Innovation has received a grant from the Oakton Educational Foundation to support the purchase of educational technology for your use! Adjuncts can get funding to purchase software and technology beyond what Oakton provides us. Some examples are Padlet, Mentimeter, Screencast-o-Matic, Screencastify, Camtasia, or other software or licenses to support your teaching. Are there any conditions? You will just need to share what you have learned about the technology with Oakton peers through the Center for Teaching Innovation or other presentations at Oakton. Questions? Contact Mary Johannesen-Schmidt, Coordinator of the Center for Teaching Innovation at mjohanne@oakton.edu. Funds are limited, so apply now if you are interested. Funds are available only to adjuncts until December 1, 2021; after that, it is open to full-timers as well. Applications are accepted via the Google form link: <https://forms.gle/H778qqmCNq885sTA7>.

Not Vaccinated? Read This.

If you teach wholly on-line and don't come to campus, you can stop reading.

If you have uploaded your proof of vaccination to Oakton, you can stop reading.

If you haven't uploaded your proof of vaccination yet and you come to campus, read on:

The administration is sending out letters regarding *Vaccination/Testing Mandate Discipline for Employee Non-Compliance at Oakton*. Briefly, because of the state mandate, the college must monitor college employees and students who are not in compliance. The process for employees is being administered by HR. If you have responsibilities on campus and don't comply with the mandate, the discipline for non-compliance for us union employees follows the progressive discipline procedures in our contract. The discipline for non-compliance for all other employees is as follows:

1st offense: a verbal warning

2nd offense: a written warning placed in employee's personnel file

3rd offense: a one-day suspension without pay, documented in employee's personnel file

4th offense: termination

What is "one offense"? Not submitting proof of vaccination OR COVID-19 testing data for a one-week period is "an offense." If non-compliance continues for multiple weeks, offenses are cumulative. In other words, each week of non-compliance is one "offense." You get a verbal warning the first week and then a written warning the second week, and so on.

The weekly testing for COVID can be done *anywhere* – just upload the results to Oakton.

To submit a proof of vaccination, complete a **Vaccination Status Form** and upload a photo of your vaccination card **This is the link for the Employee Vaccination Status Form:**

<https://www.oakton.edu/resource/it/channels/allschool/forms/StudentForm.php?formname=covidvacemp>

***Adjunct Needed to Serve on
Diversity Council***

Interested in serving on the Council?
And be paid for your service? Contact
Cheryl Thayer at afaakton@gmail.com if
you are interested.

Learning Day

Do you usually teach on Wednesdays during the
day? Then you need to attend Learning Day on
October 27 during those time slots. Email Mindy
Finnigan at mfinniga@oakton.edu to register.

Sexual Harassment Training Due by Nov. 30

Nov. 30

To remain in compliance with the Illinois Department Human Rights
(IDHR) mandate regarding the prevention of sexual harassment, we all have to complete an
annual review of the IDHR's sexual harassment prevention training by Nov. 30. The training
takes about half an hour to complete. Our on-line training provider is Vector Solutions; using
that, you'll be linked to a narrated version of the training program presentation. Vector
Solutions will automatically retain your training record as proof of completion; the certificate
can be downloaded for your own records.

To access the training, go to the Vector LMS, Higher Education Edition website for Oakton
Community College: <https://oakton-il.safecolleges.com/> and enter your Oakton user name.
Once you are logged on, click on a course title to begin the training. To get full credit, you have
to complete each section of the course.

You have probably noticed the emails coming from Vector Solutions LMS ensuring that you stay
on track to finish the training. They will stop as soon as you complete the training.
Questions? Contact the CPD at cpd@oakton.edu.

Job Announcements

HR regularly posts job openings at the college; don't let an opportunity to apply for a newly
open full-time position go by unnoticed. Search both the external and internal categories in
Human Resources. Right now, there are openings for full-time positions in Speech, Biology,
Psychology, Earth Science, and Human Services Substance Abuse Counseling in addition to a
full-time staff opening as Adult Education Manager for ESL.

Best wishes to ...

Frank Kelley, retired after a long career in teaching writing in the English Department, ending his
long commute from Wonder Lake.

Are you retiring?

What your SURS pension will be depends on what Oakton reports to SURS. What they report
may or may not be correct. It is important to be proactive before your retirement and make sure

that what is reported is accurate. Contact Cheryl Thayer, not Human Resources, to find out what you can do. Email her at afaoakton@gmail.com.

If you are retiring soon, please let us know so that we can share your news and perhaps your plans with your colleagues.

Condolences

Long time Oakton adjunct and AFA member Wendy Wallace passed away recently after complications following heart surgery. Wendy had retired a couple of years ago from Oakton, having served on numerous committees and worked for the AFA. Outside of Oakton, she enjoyed music - playing handbells at her church, singing in the choir, playing guitar and piano. She lived a life of service, delivering flowers to shut ins, serving as a member of Des Plaines History Center, working for the Des Plaines Self Help closet and food pantry and supporting local artists. Friends were important; she sent cards for all occasions and kept in touch with many people, including a pen pal in Australia and a young girl in Indiana. A friend paid her this tribute: "She was the most loving, thoughtful and generous friend with her time, money, talents." I for one wish I had known her better.



October Leaves on Water

Congratulations

to Christopher Bower for winning this year's Ray Harstein Award for Teaching Excellence. Christopher teaches English in Liberal Arts.

To Carol Fox winning the first Jerry Cole Tutor of the Year Award from the Learning Center. Carol has been an adjunct in the ESL Department and faculty tutor in Des Plaines. She was recognized for her patience, compassion and diligence in tutoring students.

To Nelson Wainwright and his wife on the birth of their daughter Freya Irene Wainwright on July 26, 2021. She was a healthy 7 lbs. 5 oz. Nelson has been in charge of elections for the AFA and has been our tech wizard.