



THE HARPER

ADJUNCT ADVOCATE

HARPER COLLEGE ADJUNCT FACULTY ASSOCIATION

NEWSLETTER

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Harper adjuncts,

With November right around the corner I want wish each of you happy sailing the rest of the semester. Undoubtedly this semester has been a mixture of exhilaration and anxiety. I know that I still feel like I am getting my sea-legs back, especially teaching in the classroom again. With that said, happy reading we have a bunch of useful news for you, see below.

Robert Allare
President – HCAFA
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[HCAFA supports the Illinois Worker's Rights Amendment](#)

On election day, Tuesday, November 8th an important and relevant amendment will be on the ballot for the State of Illinois. In short, this amendment will guarantee the right to collective bargaining in the Illinois constitution. Much of what this bill will guarantee is the ability for employees of Illinois businesses, private institutions and public institutions like community colleges to negotiate with their organizations for “better pay, improved benefits and safe working conditions.” (Workersrights.com) As beneficial as our recent and past negotiations HCAFA has had with the college, the right for other Illinois public and private workers to also work with their institutions should not be denied or diminished. HCAFA will be voting YES on the amendment.

For more information on what the exact language would be in the Illinois Constitution, you can see it here in this link – [About the Amendment](#).

RECENT ISSUES

[2022 adjunct Level II inductees](#)

This past week the Academy for Teaching Excellence and HCAFA President Robert Allare and myself, Secretary Steven Titus, hosted a dinner and small awards ceremony for the recent Level II inductees from across the college. Later in the evening of the 19th, the Harper Board of Trustees, President Dr. Avis Proctor, and Provost Dr. Janosik individually recognized these excellent and admirable adjuncts and gave them a standing ovation. HCAFA is very proud of their achievements.

We would like to recognize the eleven new inductees below representing six divisions and nine departments from across the college.

- Faiza Asghar, Chemistry
- Michelle Bauer, Phlebotomy
- Chris Candelas, Student Development
- Kathleen Haines-Finley, Fashion Studies
- Eloise Heinrich, Art
- Mallory Manning, Library Services
- Bruce Morris Jr., Law Enforcement and Justice Administration
- Ruth Moser, Biology
- Eric Tellschow, Law Enforcement and Justice Administration
- Kristen Voss, English as a Second Language/Linguistics
- Kristen Walk, Art

Congratulations to all of these hard-working and dedicated adjuncts who completed this year's Level II program!

HCAFA free lunch/open house – Wednesday, November 16th

HCAFA will be hosting the next open house/meet and greet on campus this fall semester that is strictly for adjuncts. HCAFA executive team members will be there to provide free lunch at the Subway in Avante on Wednesday, November 16th from 11:30am to 1:30pm. HCAFA members will also be there for any questions that you might have for them. Come have lunch on us as an appreciation for all that you do!



Apply now for student loan debt relief

The Biden/Harris administration recently announced a student loan debt relief program! This program of debt relief applies to those who have taken out Federal student loans. You must apply for the program as this is not an automatic relief program. The U.S Department of Education Federal Student aid webpage describes this as **"A program that provides eligible borrowers with full or partial discharge of loans up to \$20,000 to Federal Pell Grant recipients and up to \$10,000 to non-Pell Grant recipients."**

-Application page – [Federal student loan debt relief](#)

-To find more information about eligibility, visit the [student loan debt relief page](#).

Secretary's Corner with Steven Titus

[College vaccination event on Thursday, October 27th](#)

It goes without saying how the implementation of COVID-19 vaccines this past year and half have either saved countless lives or lessened the symptoms when contracting a strain of the virus. Harper is hosting a one day vaccination clinic on Thursday, October 27th from 11am to 1pm in the M building, in room M 2012. The vaccinations will be administered by the Illinois Department of Public Health. Outside of providing COVID vaccines and boosters being available (J&J, Pfizer, Moderna) seasonal flu shots are being offered as well as the Monkeypox (MPV) vaccine.

I cannot stress enough taking advantage of this opportunity. I signed up online at Harper for my Pfizer booster (tailored to the COVID Omicron variant strain) to protect myself, my family, friends and my students for the coming winter. While we respect making your own choices about health care, the facts are that nationwide far fewer than expected are getting their booster shots. As someone who caught COVID this past summer, it was a rough week even though I was vaccinated. I can only imagine how worse my condition would have been if I had not been vaccinated and boosted in the first place.

The link for the clinic is available here through the Harper HIP page. I would encourage you sign up ahead of time. Link: [One day vaccination clinic on October 27th](#)

[Problem? HCAFA is here to help!](#)

WHAT ARE MY WEINGARTEN RIGHTS?

If you are ever in a situation that you believe could lead to any kind of disciplinary action, you have the right to have a union representative with you.

In a situation like that, to protect yourself, say, "If this discussion could in any way lead to my being disciplined or terminated, or affect my personal working conditions, I respectfully request that my union representative be present at the meeting. Without representation, I choose not to answer any questions." Under no circumstances should you lose your cool or walk out of the meeting.

Www.harperadjuncts.org, the HCAFA website, has an in-depth explanation of these very important rights. Go to our site and click on "union representation" under the "documents" tab.

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