

## August 2023

Mary Hope Griffin, *President*

Mary Obernesser, *Vice President*

Sylvia Cielak, *Treasurer*

Linda Berendsen, *Secretary*

Phil Prale, *Member Services*

Room 2470 DP

Web site: [oaktonadjuncts.com](http://oaktonadjuncts.com)

Email: [afaokton@gmail.com](mailto:afaokton@gmail.com)

### 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 2023 Payroll Dates

9/1, 9/15, 9/29, 10/13, 10/27, 11/9, 11/24, 12/8, 12/22

AFA dues are taken out of the 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> paychecks.

### Oakton Board of Trustees Meetings

8/15, 9/19, 10/17, 11/14, and 12/12 in the D.P. Board Room

### AFA President's in-person Office Hours

Returning soon!!

### AFA Open Office Hours

Returning soon

### Next AFA Board Meeting

Sept. 8 on Zoom



what's new at Oakton and what you need to be aware of. Join us here: <https://oakton.zoom.us/j/99346825435?pwd=V2NoN1ZPMU9TVTdNMi9ZMm96WTQyUT09> Meeting ID: 993 4682 5435 Passcode: 145960

The first day of Orientation Week is IN PERSON in the 1600 rooms in Des Plaines. This year, the college has gone out of its way to make in-person attendance clear and has even provided transportation from the Skokie campus to Des Plaines if needed.

Take advantage of the Orientation Week workshops. If you attend *three* hours of sessions, *you can be paid .045 LHE's*. You must complete this [form](#) and submit it by Sept. 1 to be compensated. The Opening Day keynote address and breakout sessions as well as the other workshops count toward these hours. What is NOT counted are the required department meetings and the AFA meeting.

**Wear RED on Monday, August 14!** RED for ED is a movement of educators and supporters of public education advocating for increased public funding for education and better pay and benefits for teachers and other school staff. Show your support!



**Important Reminders as the Semester Begins – for YOU**  
**Shambles** is 10 a.m. Wednesday August 16. (New to Oakton? 'Shambles' is the former but still used name for when classes with insufficient enrollment are dropped from the schedule.)

**Check your enrollment** in your classes and take screenshots. You will be paid for the highest number of students that enrolled in your class even of one or more later drop – but you need proof.

**Earn .025 LHE's** by attending 6 out of 9 of the Monday afternoon division and department meetings. These happen [twice a month](#) from 2:30 – 3:30. Complete [this form](#) and send it in *by Sept. 1*. The pay is nice, but it also a great way to keep on top of what is happening at the college and your department.

## Join us at the AFA Orientation Week Meeting

on Wednesday,, August 16, from 4 to 5:15 on Zoom. Learn about

### ***We'll be inputting mid-term grades in Fall***

Beginning this fall, we will need to input midterm grades for our courses instead of just verifying midterm attendance. In this way, students will know how they are progressing at midpoint in their courses and can plan on getting support to finish the course successfully. Keep this new requirement in mind as you plan the timing of your assessments in your fall courses.

### ***Important Reminders as the semester begins – for YOUR STUDENTS***

#### ***Do Your Students Need Help Buying Textbooks?***

Here is a link to the [Textbook Purchase Program](#). Students who are eligible for financial aid can request a book voucher via email (to [financialaid@oakton.edu](mailto:financialaid@oakton.edu)) at the beginning of each semester. Students typically receive an email within 24 hours regarding the outcome of that request. The library also normally has textbooks on reserve for use in the library.

***Tell your students about tutoring!*** At the end of every semester, the tutors meet students coming in for help who did not know about the free tutoring available in the [Learning Center](#)! There are dedicated writing tutors to help with those papers, subject specific tutoring in accounting, chemistry, physics, and math, among others. Students can see a tutor in-person, on Zoom, or asynchronously on-line. On that first day of class, why not walk your class over?

#### ***Teaching in Skokie?***

It's construction season....The second floor Skokie campus library and first floor Learning Center are being combined into one Learning Commons and will be joined by an elevator built outside the present outer wall. When finished, the Learning Center will house the Learning Center for tutoring, the Testing Center, and the ADRC offices in one place. This will be happening beginning in August. Depending on where your classroom is, be prepared for some noise.

The library's books will also be moved to the Acorn rooms. Beginning Aug. 21, all library services will be located in Rooms A145-152 (Oak Rooms). You can still check out books, but the library staff will retrieve them for you.

#### ***Beneficial News***

The Employee Assistance Program (EAP) is now available to adjuncts (and their family members) as well as full-time faculty. We can owe this benefit to the hard work of President Smith and Mary Johanson-Schmidt. Per HR,

“Oakton College partners with ACI Specialty Benefits and Reliance Matrix to provide a contemporary and confidential Employee Assistance Program (EAP) including benefits and perks that alleviate stress and help employees and families thrive.” What does the EAP provide?

- Unlimited child care, elder care and pet care referrals
- Legal assistance and financial consultations
- Multilingual and multicultural provider network
- Emotional support for personal issues - up to 3 mental health sessions for assessment,

You can explore the offerings and create an account with them at <http://rsli.acieap.com>.

Questions? Contact ACI Specialty Benefits directly at 855-RSL-HELP (855-775-4357)

#### ***More Benefits***

If you are a member of AFA, then you are a member of the IEA (Illinois Education Association) and NEA (National Education Association – our parent union) – and are eligible for [lots of benefits](#) – home and auto

insurance, discounts on admission tickets to entertainment such as movies and waterparks, vacation deals, shopping discounts. It is worth checking out.

### ***Join the AFA***

Have you signed up for the .045 LHE pay for attending Orientation Week sessions? The .025 meeting commitment? Has your pay increased this semester (probably)? These – and more – are all due to the hard work by the AFA on your behalf. [Consider joining the AFA](#) – especially you newcomers to Oakton. When we go to negotiations with the college, the greater our numbers, the more we will be paid attention to.

### ***Comings and Goings***

#### ***Congratulations***

to former adjunct Adrienne Smith, who is now the Career and Transfer Center Manager.

#### ***Welcome to New Adjuncts.***

Christine Hoang, STEM and Health Careers  
Justin Bankert, STEM and Health Careers  
Rapi Kopace, STEM and Health Careers  
James Burke, STEM and Health Careers  
Paul Newman, Division of Business and Career Technologies  
John Devaney, Division of Business and Career Technologies  
Ladora Robinson Locke, Division of Business and Career Technologies  
Allen Rosales, Division of Business and Career Technologies  
Lara Roemer, Division of Liberal Arts  
Ciara Ward, Division of Liberal Arts  
Amy Campbell, Athletics

#### ***Wishing Retirees Well***

Cindy Del Medico, Evangeline Catungal, Janet Levin, William Tong

#### ***Thinking of Retiring? Meet with SURS***

SURS counselors will be coming to both campuses of Oakton and will meet with those considering retirement on a first come, first served basis. These 45- minute appointments will be available on the Skokie campus on September 14 and in Des Plaines on the 15<sup>th</sup>. Here are [instructions](#) on how to schedule a counseling session with SURS. Both schedules are set to **close on August 17, 2023**.

#### ***Want to keep your email after retiring?***

To keep your Oakton email after you retire, you need to file for emeritus status. To obtain this status, email a request to [emeritusfaculty@oakton.edu](mailto:emeritusfaculty@oakton.edu) with your B# and date of your retirement by Dec. 15. Besides keeping your email, there are also tuition benefits as well as library privileges.

#### ***Retiring? Wait till Sept 2024 if you can***

SURS Senate Bill SB 1235 changes the requirement that participants must work 15 days in a month to receive a month of service credit. Instead, participants will receive a month of service credit as long as they make contributions in a given month. This is a *huge deal* for adjuncts. Previously, depending on length of courses (8 weeks vs 16 weeks) and when in a calendar month one's teaching fell, adjuncts' SURS credit could be seriously diminished. This rectifies that injustice. SB 1235 will be in effect on **Sept. 1, 2024**.

### ***Even If You're Not Retiring....***

All adjuncts should be checking their SURS account to make sure that Oakton is reporting the correct information. Log into [SURS.org](https://surs.org), click on the MySurs tab at the top. Down the left side, there are things like Earnings History and Service Years.

### ***Learn Something New and Get Paid for It.***

This Fall term, 2 paid seminars are being offered by the CPD.

**Fostering a Culture of Belonging (An ACUE Microcredential)** Led by Mary Johannesen-Schmidt, it begins with a synchronous "launch" session tentatively scheduled for Tuesday, September 5 from 8-9am via Zoom. The rest of the work is asynchronous: new content is released every two weeks. You will need to review each the module's content, participate in assignments/activities, apply it to your own practice, and reflect on how it relates to your teaching. The seminar will end with your choice of one of several synchronous sessions offered in the week prior to Thanksgiving.

Registration <https://forms.gle/nTeUtFpnZmDgGC338>

### **Building Transparency in Your Assignments and Boosting Student Success**

Facilitated by Mary Johannesen-Schmidt and Leslie Van Wolvelear

The TILT model is a simple concept that has robust research supporting its use. In it, instructors work to make their expectations more transparent, by stating what the purpose of the assignment is, what students are to complete, and how success is measured. Research shows that the use of the TILT model results in greater learning outcomes, especially for students from under-represented or marginalized groups. In this seminar, you'll learn about the TILT model, its efficacy, and its implementation.

By the end of the seminar, participants will be able to:

1. Explain the benefits of incorporating the TILT model into course assignments.
2. Use TILT in two course assignments.
3. Evaluate the transparency of assignments using TILT.
4. Apply TILT to future course assignments.

Online synchronous meetings are on Thursdays from 12:30-2 on 9/14, 9/28, 10/12, and 10/26.

Registration <https://forms.gle/qwgs9DA2xUCJ2oj7A>



### ***In Memoriam***

*Reza Amiri, Adjunct Faculty who  
taught math since 2013  
Wayne Marko, Division of STEM*

The college is holding a memorial service to honor Reza and Wayne on Monday, August 28 at 3:30.