

February 2025

What is the AFA?

It's your union, protecting and fighting for the rights of all adjunct faculty members. We are affiliated with the Illinois Education Association, a state affiliate of the National Education Association.

SPRING 2025 Payroll Dates

1/31, 2/14, 2/28, 3/14, 3/28,
4/11, 4/25, 5/9/ 5/23

Dues taken from 4th and 5th paychecks (non-instructional pay is typically delayed)

Oakton Board of Trustees Mtgs

2/18, 3/18, 4/22, 5/20
at 6 p.m. in the DP Board Room

AFA Board Meetings

Feb. 6 at 4:40-6 on [Zoom \(1st Thurs.\)](#)

AFA Open Office Hours

Wed 12:30-2 DP 2166
Mon. 12:30-1:30 SK A 213
On-line 3rd Thurs. 4-5 Zoom



Get Your Fall Preference Form In

The Fall adjunct faculty preference form for Fall '25 is available in the Adjunct Channel. Be as flexible as possible to increase the chances of getting the courses/ LHE's that you need. Submit the form to your chair by **February 7**. Most of us (80%) should receive assignments by Feb. 24; when you receive your assignment, you have two weeks to accept it or decline it .

How to Access Professional Development Funds

How much can you get? "Each adjunct faculty member may be reimbursed up to \$375 per academic year (fall, spring, summer) or \$750 for each two-year period dating from the start of the contract (i.e. \$750 for 2021-22 and 2022-23, \$750 for 2023-24 and 2024-25). No more than \$200 of the \$375 may be for technology expenses that support teaching. An adjunct faculty member may not use more than \$375 in the first year of each two-year period. Reimbursement will be on a first-come, first-served basis."

Funds can be used for

- Professional association memberships.
- Tuition and fees for courses (including graduate and certification courses).
- Registration fees, travel and related expenses for workshops and conferences.
- Expenses to update qualifications (as described in Article 2.1 Qualifications) technology expenses that support teaching (software, headphones, microphones, webcams, computers) up to \$200 per year (counts towards \$375 annual limit).

Note: You MUST get prior approval from your dean before purchasing anything or spending money on anything. Don't get stuck with something you can't get reimbursed for. **Fill out [this form](#)** .

Where can I find....?

First, check out the Adjunct Channel card. The AFA has tried to have everything you might need to be linked there to save you hunting around for what you want. Check it out and see what is available there. The Adjunct Channel should be the first place you look when you are looking for a form, a link, or a document. If you would like to see something included that is not there, please let the AFA know.

Why Should I Join the AFA?

First of all, the AFA is the union that is negotiating a new contract for us. The annual raises? The Professional Development funds? The Student Success Initiative? The Mentorship Program? And more - thank the AFA.

In addition, when you join, you become a member of the largest union in the country, the NEA (National Education Association). You are eligible for the many benefits that the NEA provides such as save an average of \$638 a year in auto insurance through Travelers

- Save an average of \$380 annually through home, renters, and condo insurance.
- Save an estimated \$1280 at closing when purchasing a home or refinancing.
- Get dental and vision insurance
- Save on new and used cars
- Get cash back on lots of stores

And....

- Affiliate staff can advise you and stand with you to defend yourself with full access to all the legal and liability protections afforded to NEA members—this includes providing legal assistance if warranted.
- [NEA's Educators Employment Liability program](#) protects all association members—whether classroom teachers or support professionals—from personal financial liability for most incidents arising out of their educational employment activities or duties. The program is a benefit of membership and there for you if you need it.

And.... The more members that the AFA has, the more the college administration will pay attention to us during current negotiations. [Join now.](#)

Spring Faculty Seminars

There are 4 Faculty Seminars that you can still register, and be paid .5 LHE's for. Register via the [CPD](#) website.

[Exploring Asian American Studies: Reckoning with the Model Minority Narrative](#)

6 Friday afternoons 11-1:30 beginning Feb. 7

[Fostering a Culture of Belonging \(An ACUE Microcredential\)](#)

4 modules primarily asynchronous beginning Feb. 3

[Standards Based Grading: Let's Build Together!](#)

6 weeks synchronous and asynchronous on Fridays beginning Feb. 21

[Teaching Credential on High Impact Practice](#)

6 2-hour sessions in various formats on Wednesday afternoons beginning Feb. 12.

And did you know that ***negotiations are starting for our new contract?*** Our current contract between the AFA and Oakton College ends at the end of August this year. The AFA has been hard at work gathering information from you and gearing up for negotiations that start in January. Our negotiating team will be meeting in person with the negotiating team from the college using [Interest Based Bargaining](#),

Thanks to the advocacy of Rondell Merrill

Illinois no longer requires people to publish their name change in newspapers. Written by Bonnie Kahn Ognisanti (Niles Township Supervisor) and Kevin Olickal (Skokie/Chicago IL House Rep) and championed by Ram Villivalam (Skokie/Chicago IL Senator), [the bill](#) keeps name changes for people such as trans folk or domestic abuse survivors out of the papers, ensuring their safety. Merrill worked hard to garner support for the bill, working with Ram and asking Senator Laura Fine to sign as a sponsor.

The Employee Tuition Waiver

If you are having filling out the tuition waiver form from HR for that class you may have signed up for, it is not fillable. Stop trying. Print a copy and send it to HR.

Congratulations on your retirement!
Beverly Crockett – English
Mike Davros - English

Upcoming Oakton Board of Trustees Election

Meet the candidates running for the Board of Trustees A forum will be held on Thurs, 5/20, 5:30-7:30 in the Footlik Theater in Des Plaines. Candidates will present their background and respond to questions. Although it is not available on Zoom, it will be recorded.