

OAKTON AFA NEWS

September 2026

EXECUTIVE BOARD

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[Mary Obernesser](#), Vice President
[Eric Bottorff](#), Treasurer
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Email links go to reps' personal email account

QUICK LINKS

- [Oakton Adjucts Website](#)
- [AFA Contract](#)
- [Upcoming Meetings](#)
- [AFA FAQs](#)
- [Contact Us](#)

- [IEA Website](#)
- [Become a Member](#)

Fall 2026 Payroll Dates

Sep 11
Sep 25
Oct 9
Oct 23
Nov 6
Nov 20
Dec 4
Dec 18

Welcome Back!

The summer break has come to an end and fall is quickly approaching, even if the temperatures tell us otherwise. As we embark on the semester be sure to take a few moments to breathe and engage in some self care. We spend our time caring for the needs of our students and sometimes forget to care for ourselves. Try some reflexive breathing, meditate, read a book for fun, listen to a podcast, or go for a walk. Take some time for you. Just a minute or two can make a big difference!

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

There are several **[compensated professional development opportunities](#)** this semester.

- AI Teaching Credential
- Learning Assistants (LAs) at Oakton
- Universal Design for Learning (UDL) as a High-Impact Teaching Practice
- Constructing Meaningful Online Learning Environments

The seminars range from four to eight weeks and are in varying formats (synchronous online, async, and hyflex). Register **[here](#)**.

UPCOMING

Open Office Hours (online): first Wednesday of every month from 4 PM to 5:30 PM. Next open office hours are **September 2, 2026**. Come to ask questions, talk about issues, commiserate, or just hang out. [Link to the meeting](#).

Adjunct faculty are welcome to attend **AFA executive board meetings**, which are held from 4-5:30 pm on the third Wednesday of each month via Zoom. The next meeting is **September 16, 2026**. Meeting ID: 913 3648 3477 Passcode: 229489

New Preference Forms coming soon! **[Here](#)** is what they will look like.

Adjuncts are welcomed to join the **OCCFA Happy Hour** on September 17 from 3-6 PM at [Plateia](#). Appetizers and soft drinks are on OCCFA!

Thursday, January 14, 2027 is the date of **OCCFA's annual faculty retreat** at the Morton Arboretum. April Andry Rah'man is the keynote speaker. She is from the Center for the Advancement of Teaching Excellence (CATE) at UIC. *Sponsored by OCCFA with limited space for adjuncts*

KUDOS TO ADJUNCT FACULTY MEMBERS

Timothy McNamara will be performing at the *Chicago Jazz Festival* WDCB stage Saturday, September 5, 2026.

Dan Wirth, in the Speech and Theater Department, *won first place* in the Nuevas Voces new plays festival at Northeastern Illinois University.

Carol Burns, GLOBAL COLLABORATION! She has worked with Daegu University in South Korea for over 20 years, assisting administrators, faculty, and staff in developing a postsecondary program for students with intellectual disabilities. After 15 successful years the program is now merging further into the university structure as two new departments, one serving students with intellectual/developmental needs and another serving students with BIF, (Borderline Intellectual Functioning), students formerly known as "slow learners". This summer she presented at the conference launching these new models and was *honored with an Award of Appreciation* and much gratitude for the work they have accomplished together and the possibilities that lie ahead. See the press release here.

Rondell Merrill returns to house manage *Reeling Film Festival*, the second longest running LGBTQ+ film festival in the world. The festival runs September 17 - 27, 2026.

If you would like to have something included in the newsletter, fill out this form.

John Preyer, our faculty-facing **Accessibility specialist** is here to help!

Use our in house ticketing system to submit requests for document remediation, course material review, accessibility checks, or general questions, and track the progress of their requests through this system.

Step-by-step instructions for accessing and using the ticketing system can be found here.

Oakton AFA members are invited to attend the One Conference



The 2026 One Conference for IEA Education Support Professionals, Higher Education, and Retired members. The two-day conference, **Friday, October 16 and Saturday, October 17, 2026** will be held at the DoubleTree by Hilton in Oak Brook, IL. There will be a wide variety of electives from which to choose.

Where: DoubleTree by Hilton, 1909 Spring Rd., Oak Brook, IL 60523
Registration Fee: \$20 per registrant prior to the event - \$30 per registrant onsite
Dress: Casual

Registration Deadline: October 9, 2026

Hotel Reservation Deadline: Tuesday, September 29, 2026
Link to registration - <https://cvent.me/X27KB1?i=is6GEqmaHUCGENd-wTCWMA&locale=en-US>

Note - Costs for the conference are covered by Region 37, our IEA Region Office.