

October 2026

# ECCFA NEWS

The Sentinel: Elgin Community College Faculty Association Newsletter

## What is in the September issue:


ISSUE CONTENTS - 1

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE - 1

FACULTY DEVELOPMENT - 1

GRIEVANCE COMMITTEE - 2

REMEMBER TO VOTE - 2

COMMUNITY AWARDS - 2

SICK BANK COMMITTEE - 2

NEW COURSE PSY 227 - 2

DR. SUSAN TIMM - 2


**Keep in Touch with ECCFA**

Facebook.com/ECCFaculty

www.eccfa.org

If there is something you would like to see in our next Sentinel Newsletter, please feel free to contact the Sentinel Editor Deyana Matt.

Contact Lauren Sullivan for help with our ECCFA website

## ECCFA President's Message

Artificial intelligence is creating significant challenges for faculty, particularly when it comes to academic integrity and assessing student learning. In courses involving writing, programming, or other work completed outside the classroom, it can be increasingly difficult to determine whether assignments reflect a student's own understanding or were generated by AI. These challenges leave faculty reconsidering how we design assignments, evaluate student work, and address academic misconduct. There are no easy answers, and these are not simply individual classroom management issues. They are shared professional challenges that deserve thoughtful discussion, institutional support, and respect for faculty expertise and academic freedom.

If you got this far and are feeling a little queasy, you probably realized that this was written by ChatGPT. For those who don't work in classes with extensive writing, imagine spending your days trying to determine if every submitted document was actually written by the student. This is such an immense challenge for which we as an institution are still unprepared. We hope the administration's creation of an AI Governance Committee and the inclusion of faculty is an authentic invitation to engage with those of us doing the work.

There have been multiple cases lately of decisions that heavily impact our work being determined by others without even a consultation. Please know that we in ECCFA leadership are pushing hard to make sure your voices are heard. If you see opportunities in the future to speak up, please engage. This might be something like visiting an ECC Board of Trustees meeting to speak to the challenges we face or sharing opinions via a survey or at an ECCFA Senate meeting. We need to make our voices heard, and that is only effective if you, the members, are engaged.

In Unity, Dan Kernler - Prof. of Mathematics - President, ECCFA, IFT Local #3791

### Did You Know?

**New Faculty Development guides are available.**

We now have two plain-English guides to make the process easier – Click the here to access these links!

| NEW Salary Lane Movement Guide | NEW Faculty Development Funding Guide |
|---|---|
| Routes, deadlines, forms, credit math, and common pitfalls. | Eligibility, documentation, application, and reimbursement. |

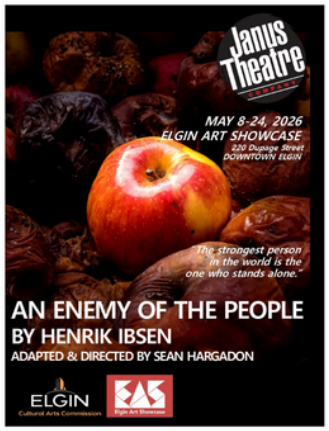
Quick links: Handbook • Application Forms • Funding Webform • Documentation Example

*Less guessing. More useful paperwork.*

# Contacting our Grievance Committee

**What Happens After You Contact the Grievance Committee?**

You contacted Grievance…now what? First things first — don't panic. You didn't just "file a grievance." Reaching out to a Grievance Committee member simply starts a confidential conversation. Maybe something doesn't feel right, you're wondering what the contract actually says, or you just need a second set of eyes on a situation. We'll listen, ask questions, and help you sort through your options. Sometimes the answer is simple. Sometimes we work toward an informal resolution. And sometimes a formal grievance may be appropriate. The bottom line? You don't have to know the answer before contacting us — that's what we're here for!



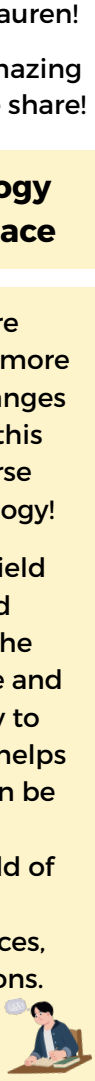

This past Spring, Lauren Sullivan was in the play Enemy of the People in downtown Elgin. The production was put on by Janus Theater Company through the Elgin Art Showcase and the Elgin Cultural Arts Commission. This October it won awards in two categories: Best Play and Best Ensemble. Check out this list of all the nominees - Congratulations Lauren!

If you have any news about the amazing things you are a part of too, please share!

## Introducing Industrial/Organizational Psychology PSY 227 - Where Psychology Meets the Workplace

With rapidly emerging technologies like AI, all fields are undergoing a radical shift and human skills are becoming more important for all types of professions to navigate these changes and prepare for the workplace of tomorrow. To try and fill this gap, the Psychology department is introducing a new course offering for Spring 2027: Industrial/ Organizational Psychology!

Industrial/Organizational (I/O) Psychology is a fascinating field that applies psychological principles to help us understand people, teams, and organizations at work. It will dive into the psychology behind the workplace and explore how people and organizations can work better together. It offers a new way to see the workplace through a psychological lens as well as helps us understand employee behavior and how psychology can be applied in organizations. This course will give students an opportunity to connect psychological concepts to the world of work. It also provides a valuable perspective for students planning careers in business, management, human resources, psychology, education, and other people-focused professions. This course has an IAI (Illinois Articulation Initiative) code and transfers as a 200 level psychology course.



## ECCFA's Commmittee on Political Education (COPE) reminds you to VOTE!




Election Day is November 3, but we encourage you to vote early if at all possible to avoid any issues on election day.
Click here to verify your registration

**Voting by mail?**

- If you return your ballot by MAIL, be sure to allow at least two weeks for delivery
- Watch for the texts informing you your ballot has been received and will be counted
- Consider dropping your ballot at a drop box (less chance of delay or loss)
- Click here to find ballot drop boxes



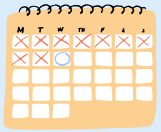

**Voting early in person?**

- Consider voting EARLY
- Click here to find early voting locations

Love the ritual of voting on Election Day? Make sure your polling place has not changed Verify the hours at your polling location!

## Sick Leave Bank Updates

**Thank you** to all of our colleagues who have contributed to this year's Sick Leave Bank. The donation window has closed and we are pleased to share that our ECCFA community has donated **117 days.** This is an increase of 4 days from last year's donation drive. Thank you to our long time contributors and our new donors. Your true generosity is greatly appreciated!



If you have any questions regarding Sick Bank, please feel free to reach out to Kathleen DeMars who is our Sick Bank Chair.

## Remembering Dr. Susan Timm



"Dr. Susan Timm was one of the first faculty members I met when I arrived at Elgin Community College. I remember meeting her while walking through the "O" building, where my first office was located. She warmly introduced herself and encouraged me to join a new initiative she was organizing—the Listening Committee. I accepted her invitation, beginning what would become many years of collegial friendship, collaboration, and shared commitment to student success…" - Glenn Earl

Click here to read more Tributes to Susan