



September 2026



ECCFA NEWS

The Sentinel: Elgin Community College Faculty Association Newsletter

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Keep in Touch with ECCFA



[Facebook.com/ECCFaculty](https://www.facebook.com/ECCFaculty)



www.eccfa.org



The Sentinel is the official ECCFA Newsletter as it is the voice of the ECC Faculty Association. Please know that if there is something you would like to see in our next Sentinel Newsletter, feel free to send an email to the Sentinel Editor [Deyana Matt](mailto:Deyana.Matt@eccfa.org).

ECCFA President's Message



Boy, it doesn't take long to get wrapped up in the rhythm of the semester. I feel like I've been at it for months, but we're only in Week 4!

This fall looks to be a lot quieter than last year, now that we have a new contract which will take us through December 2028. It's never too early to think about the next one, though, so keep your eyes out for training opportunities.

By now, you should have seen the invitation to attend the Grand Opening of the new Manufacturing and Technology Center. For those teaching in the building, these last few weeks and months have been incredibly stressful. I know many faculty worked essentially full

time all summer to prepare the building for fall classes, and the punch list of unfinished items is disturbingly long, even now.

Still, the building really is truly incredible. If you're available, please attend the Grand Opening to see what all the buzz is about. Trust me, you won't be disappointed.

Here's to hoping for a smooth fall semester!

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



ECCFA's New Website: www.eccfa.org

The new ECCFA website is live at www.eccfa.org. The site is hosted by AFT - The American Federation of Teachers. There are parts of the website that are for members only, so if you have not already, make sure to create your account! You should have gotten an email with the information, but you may contact Webmaster [Lauren Sullivan](mailto:Lauren.Sullivan@eccfa.org) if you can't find your IFT member ID. The rest of the instructions are on the website's homepage.



DID YOU KNOW?

That conference you attended may count toward lane movement

If you attended a conference, workshop, trade show, course, or other professional training in the last year, you may be able to apply for Alternate Lane Credit.



Deadline tip: Submit to your Dean/Supervisor by October 1 for lane movement consideration.

Be sure to include:

- ✓ The Alternate Lane form
- ✓ Conference or program documentation
- ✓ Your own table listing each session attended, the date/time, minutes, and total minutes/hours

Example Table

Session	Time	Minutes
Opening Plenary	9:00-10:15	75
Teaching with AI	10:30-11:30	60
Student Success Panel	1:00-2:30	90
TOTAL		225 min / 3.75 hrs



How credit is calculated

40 activity hours = 1 GEC
We calculate to the third decimal place and round to the second.



Where do I find the form?

MyElgin.edu → Spaces → Teaching, Learning & Student Development (TLSD) → Files
The form is also in the handbook.

Applications may be submitted up to 1 year after the activity is completed.

Help us help you—include the table.

ECCFA Union Contract

Here is the [ECCFA Union Contract](#) for your reference. Please note it is valid January 1, 2026 – December 31, 2028



Sick Leave Bank

Thank you to our 60 ECCFA members who have already donated days to our **Sick Leave Bank** for the 2026-2027 academic year. There is still time to donate up to 2 of your PTO days to our bank. Please consider donating 1 or 2 of your accrued days using this link:

<https://forms.gle/DDjuzigBQ3L7Ln6U6>



The deadline for donating is September 29th.
Thank you, in advance, for your generosity.

If you have any questions, please feel free to reach out to [Kathleen DeMars](#), Sick Bank Chair



Healing Paws Program

Anderson Humane's [Healing Paws Program](#) is a volunteer-based comfort dog program, providing positive pet experiences to children and adults throughout our community. Healing Paws volunteers and their pet partners visit schools, libraries, rehabilitation facilities, senior communities, and local businesses on a regularly defined schedule.

Faculty member Deyana Matt trained her Great Dane puppy Throttle for the Healing Paws Program and he excitedly passed his evaluation just last month on August 6th 2026.

Since Elgin Community College is an active Participant with the Healing Paws Program, Deyana has been working with Amybeth on scheduling Throttle for visits. Expect to see Throttle at ECC's Suicide Prevention Day event in addition to many more!

Please note that Throttle is still a puppy though so he does come with a lot of energy and of course extra slobbery kisses! Be sure to check out his new Therapy Instagram [@ThrottleTheTherapyDane](#)



Committee Chairs

COPE:

[Antonio Ramirez](#)

Curriculum:

[Leticia Starkov](#)

Faculty Development:

[Jessica Carpenter](#)

Grievance:

[Laura Haske](#) & [Michelle Kershner](#)

Honors:

[Jason Kane](#)

Membership:

[Tim Anderson](#)

Negotiations:

[Kim Tarver](#)

Sick Bank:

[Kathleen DeMars](#)

SLAAC:

[Angelika Stachnik](#)



September is National Suicide Prevention Month, bringing awareness to the impact of suicide not only on the victim, but on their family and friends, and highlighting pathways for mental health and social support. On Thursday, September 24, 2026, come to the Cafeteria Hallway in Building B from 12:00 pm to 3:00 pm so you can attend ECC's Suicide Prevention Day.

