



April 2026



ECCFA NEWS


The Sentinel: Elgin Community College Faculty Association Newsletter



What is in the March issue:

- ISSUE CONTENTS - 1
- PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE - 1
- ECCFA SOCIAL MEDIA - 1
- ECCFA CONTRACT - 1
- GRIEVANCE UPDATE - 2
- PURCHASING POWER - 2
- COPE UPDATE - 2
- FLEXIBLE SPENDING - 2
- SLAAC UPDATE - 2



Keep in Touch with ECCFA

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

 www.eccfaculty.org 



Thank you to everyone who contributed to the six Sentinel issues this year. If there is something you would like to add for next year, please contact the Sentinel Editor [Deyana Matt](mailto:deyana.matt@ecc.edu)

ECCFA President's Message

Instead of my usual President's letter, I'd like to share my statement to the Board of Trustees on the April 21st meeting. (Read by Kyle Witek, SBCT Senator, as I had a baseball game to attend.)

This statement is in support of our SSECCA brothers and sisters. If you look around campus and on the college's social media pages, you'll see almost entirely students and faculty. They are the public face of the college. When students remember their time here at ECC, most likely, they remember their classmates and their professors.

What all of these public images miss are the people behind the scenes who are the foundation of the work the college does. They run our division offices. They manage enrollment. They keep our facilities clean. They give our campus an unmatched curb appeal. They support the veterans in our community as they navigate their return to civilian life and pursue higher education.

And they support faculty in any number of ways, including managing our online course materials, adding closed captioning to videos we create, updating and maintaining classroom technology, and so much more.

Faculty and students may be the public face of the college, but SSECCA members are the engine that keeps it running.



The most recent ECCFA negotiations were very productive. While we felt the process took too long, we were able to reach an agreement that all parties could support. ECCFA's new contract recognizes the contributions of all faculty, new hires and long tenured, full time and adjunct. The contributions of SECCA members are equally important to our students' success and this college's reputation. Now is the time to demonstrate the value of those contributions.

In Unity,

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

New ECCFA Contract Link

The new collective bargaining agreement (CBA)/ ECCFA contract was recently posted to the college website so here is a [link](#) to the contract for your reference.



Committee on Political Education (COPE)

This month, ECCFA's Committee on Political Education (COPE) made a \$5,000 donation to the Elgin Area Immigrant Alliance's Mutual Aid Fund. Every dollar of this donation will go to local families affected by the recent rise in immigration detention and deportation. Many of our students' families have been affected by ICE activities, including the student who was detained in the Building K parking lot last September and remains in an out-of-state detention facility. COPE donations are voluntary, and COPE donors have been very involved over the last year supporting candidates and causes that benefit our faculty, students, and community.

For more info or to donate, please contact: eccfacope@gmail.com



Greetings from Grievance: HR & Union Reps

Like some of you, I started my professional career in the corporate world. Most work-related conflicts and evaluations were addressed directly between employees and management. The Human Resources Department ("HR") would step in only when a neutral third party was needed to help improve working relationships.

Tense Relationships with Management

Personalities and priorities gel and clash in a union setting as they do in the corporate world. Many of these pressures and conflicts are normal and part of working together. They're best resolved through open and professional communication. When a neutral third party is needed, that role is assigned to HR.

"Faculty Friends" at Employee Relations Meetings

The ECC [Employee Handbook](#) ("Handbook") discusses HR's role in resolving employee relations disputes. These disputes might arise between employees or between management and employees, but they are not disciplinary in nature... Continue reading [here](#)

Contact [Laura Haske](#), Grievance Co-Chair, if needed



Congratulations to Spring & Summer 2026 Retirees. Read more about ECC's [Annual Employee Recognition & Retirement Reception](#).

Support Unions through your Purchases

We invite you to consider using your purchasing power to support unions and workers, ensuring fair wages, safe working conditions, and access to benefits that help protect and grow the middle class! Buy in your city or town to support your schools, library & park district. Spend in your county to support county services, including forest preserve, sheriff's office, vital records & elections! Support your neighbors who live in your community, work in your community, and spend in your community! This is one way we can push back against the rising income inequality. Buy your values!

Here are a few options to make your buying decisions easier:

1. Labor411.org: They maintain a very valuable and searchable list of goods & services.
2. Aflcio.org/MadeInAmerica: This site offers updated shopping lists to support your buying decisions related to holidays & events, including back to school, Memorial Day, July 4 and Labor Day! They also maintain a list of endorsed boycotts.
3. UAW.org: maintains a list of union built vehicles.



Flexible Spending Account (FSA) Funds



Hello all. I just wanted to make everyone aware of a great way to use your Flexible Spending Account(FSA) funds. I suffered from back and knee pain. I started going to StretchZone(SZ) in Hoffman Estates on the advice of my doctor and my pain went away. SZ provides assisted stretching

exercises. My daily activities, sleep, AND my golf game all improved. The sessions were paid with my FSA funds. Feel better and save on your taxes. It's a win-win!

Let me know if you have any questions -Todd Ramljak (CRJ)

SLAAC's Announcement

The members of SLAAC spend part of their meeting time reviewing student achievement across the college's six General Education learning outcomes as displayed in a Tableau dashboard. Each year, the committee chooses two outcomes for further study. The 2025/2026 data briefs for Communication and Global & Multi-cultural Literacy can be found on [this page of the CETAL site](#), along with briefs done for prior years.

How does modality or age factor into student learning? Review the briefs to find out!

