

THE SENTINEL

ECC Foundation Announces Resources for Excellence Mini-Grant Program for Faculty – Application Cycle for Spring 2015 is Now Open

By Sheri Lacy

Through the generosity of its donors, the ECC Foundation is pleased to announce the launch of its Resources for Excellence (RFE) Mini-Grant Program for ECC faculty. The RFE Mini-Grant Program is designed to encourage innovation and creativity amongst faculty by providing financial support for proposed projects that will benefit groups of ECC students and enhance their learning experiences inside and/or outside of the classroom, as well as align with the mission and purpose of Elgin Community College.

RFE Mini-Grant funds are available for the purpose of supporting an academic or student program in launching a new initiative, acquiring new teaching and learning tools or resources, and promoting student learning through means not otherwise provided for by the college's operational fund. The Foundation should be considered as one of many possible funding vehicles. RFE Mini-Grant funds may be used to augment other resources from other sources. Examples of acceptable and unacceptable grant can be found in the RFE Mini-Grant application.

The RFE Mini-Grant application can be accessed by contacting the ECC Foundation at foundation@elgin.edu. The application period is now open for a Spring 2015 RFE Mini-Grant award. The application deadline is Wednesday, October 15, 2014. Award announcements will be made on Monday, November 17, 2014.



President's Letter



Dear Colleagues,

It is the hope of the ECCFA leadership that you all are having a great start of the semester. Every new semester brings new excitement and new expectations to meet. The professionalism and dedication of the ECC faculty are determining factors in meeting those expectations—no questions about it.

I would like to share a couple of things with you for your consideration. One is the upcoming gubernatorial election and the issues at stake. This election confronts two very different visions on education, labor rights, social issues and pension reforms, just to name a few. With labor under attack by politicians with extreme agendas, it is important for unions and labor in general to take a serious look at the issues and the candidates' proposals, in order to make a sound decision when voting and in order to defend what has cost unions and labor so much to achieve over decades.

This is the most critical election in history of union/labor movements in the state of Illinois. We cannot afford another Wisconsin to take place in our state.

We strongly invite you to consider the issues at stake in the upcoming gubernatorial elections and how the outcome of the elections could affect labor movement and union families in Illinois. We invite you to get involved, to get family and friends informed about the importance of this election and how the outcome can affect you, your family, your friends and the entire state. Yesterday was Wisconsin; tomorrow could be Illinois.

We invite you to visit ift-aft.org, and the ECCFA website to get information and learn about ways to help. Please don't forget to exercise your vote. It is our civic duty and our responsibility.

Another issue we want to share is that of faculty safety. Several concerns were brought to the attention of the Senate regarding faculty members feeling worried about their safety in the classroom/college when having to deal with a student who is showing behavior that causes faculty to fear their safety and that of the students. I have personally brought this issue to Dr. David Sam, and we agreed that we need updated guidelines for both faculty and administrators to deal with situations like this, and a taskforce will be put in place to work on developing/updating these guidelines. Any faculty member facing a situation where safety may be compromised must immediately communicate with the Dean of Students and the ECC police, document it in detail, and contact the ECCFA leadership.

Wishing you an excellent semester.

In Unity,

Luis Martinez

On The Road: ECC's Tennis Teams



The women's tennis team were conference and regional champions and qualified to represent the region at the National Tournament in Tyler, Texas last spring. The grade point average of the team was 3.43 and was designated by the National Junior college Athletic Association as an All-Academic Team. They are from left to right:

Alina Patthana, Cassie McElroy, Stacy Krach, Maria Morales Nelson, Natalie Judkins, Cristal Tinajero, June Lynch, Assistant coach Karen Rauh, Ellie Weber.

Maria had the highest grade point average in the region and got the Dick Durant award for academic excellence. She was also recognized by the NJCCA for Superior Academic Achievement. Her average for 75 credits was 3.94.

Photo by Clark Hallpike



Before the fall semester began, tennis students went on a road trip to Cincinnati to watch the Western and Southern Tennis Tournament at which the top twenty women and men professionals competed. Venus and Serena Williams, Roger Federer, Andy Murray, Maria Sharapova and many other professionals competed. They were all excited to see the players whom they have admired and emulated compete.

SOMETHING TO PONDER

“There is a direct relationship between the bread box and the ballot box, and what the Union fights for and wins at the bargaining table can be taken away in the legislative halls.” Walter Ruther, President UAW, 1946 to 1970

In Wisconsin the voters elected an ultra-conservative governor. Illinois voters are faced with the prospect of voting for a similar type of candidate for Governor. When considering this fall’s election in Illinois, it may be worthwhile to ponder what happened to Union teachers in Wisconsin.

HERE IS WHAT WISCONSIN TEACHERS HAVE LOST:

- Tenure and seniority.
- Reduction in take home pay by 11%.
- An end to the traditional salary structure.
- No more bumps for years, hours, or degrees.
- Paid administration duties like Team Leader at a middle school are now unpaid and mandatory.
- High stakes evaluations.
- Increase in the retirement age.
- Increase in class size.
- Extension of the work day and school year. In some cases the work day has been extended by 45 to 60 minutes and the school year lengthened by several days.
- Some districts have mandatory dress codes, random firings, and the elimination of preparation periods.
- Teacher unions have been weakened by having to recertify every year. Teachers who do not vote in the recertification election are considered no votes.
- Unions can only bargain wages and wages cannot be increased by more than

the inflation rate. In some districts salary increases have been offset by increasing the money a teacher must pay for insurance.

- Sick days in some districts have been reduced from 15 to 9.
- Personal days have been eliminated in many districts.

HOW HAS THIS IMPACTED THE TEACHERS OF WISCONSIN?

- Two teacher households have experienced a 22% reduction in take home pay.
- Job growth has stalled because of the loss of take home pay by large numbers of people.
- Districts have created administrative led “compensation committees”.
- Teachers are afraid to speak out, in some districts vocal teachers and union leaders appear to be targeted for firings and layoffs.
- Districts lost many of their veteran teachers because of the huge mass of teachers retiring for fear that pension cuts or

elimination would be next.

- Teachers are the scapegoat for everything and are often referred to as public enemy #1.
- Teachers receive e-mails in ALL CAPS yelling and criticizing them.
- Students in papers refer to teachers as greedy, babies, and/or union thugs on a regular basis.
- There is no future in teaching in Wisconsin since salaries begin around \$38,000, increases are going to be minimal, no salary increase for experience, and no salary increase for additional degrees.
- Teachers are looking for another job or considering an administrative position.
- University enrollment in a master’s degree programs for teaching is down close to 25% but administrative program enrollment is up.

**ECCFA
Senators
(2014-2016)**

**ADLR/STUD
SERV**
Ellie Swanson

CABS
Jessica Carpenter
Cristina Marrocco
Dawn Munson
Pat O'Brien

HP
Maria Kazmi
Kimberly Tarver

LIB/COUN
Armando Trejo

LVPA
Joel Peck
Howard Russo

MSE
Elizabeth Becker
Terri Martin
Mary O'Sullivan

BUS/SSCT
Patrick Gordon
Clark Hallpike
Roger Ramey

UAF₂
Heidi Brelsford
Mary Elfring
Diana Flahaven

Sue Ford
Dan Kocher
David Lawrence
Loretta McCallister
Warren Peto
Joyce Ross
Danielle Straub
Baudelaire Ulysse
Scott Vaszily
Jessica Wedemeyer

UAF₁
Liddy Hope
Jennifer Jeschke

COPE
Chairperson:
Joyce Fountain

COPE Treasurer:
Roger Ramey

**ECCFA
Scholarship**
Chair: Bev

Augustine

Parliamentarian:
Ellie Swanson

**Social Media
Liaison:** Jessica
Carpenter

**Communications
Liaison/
Sentinel Editor:**
Lori Clark

Webmaster:
Tammy Ray

**Fall Senate
Meetings**

September 17—C120
October 10—C120
October 15—C120
October 29—C120
November 12—C120
November 29—C120
December 10—C120