

December 2024



# ECCFA NEWS

The Sentinel: Elgin Community College Faculty Association Newsletter

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### Keep in Touch with ECCFA

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

 [www.eccfaculty.org](http://www.eccfaculty.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](#)

## Chief (or Lead) Negotiator Needed! By Ryan Kerr, Negotiations Committee Chair

Chief (or Lead) Negotiator is a crucial job and also one that scares many people. Five years ago, I never would have thought I'd have served in the role. However, that shows just how manageable it is.



This blurb is meant to serve as a job description for anyone possibly considering stepping into the role (or for those who are not currently considering but come around). This position could be filled by full-time or unit adjunct faculty. It is also a paid position from the ECCFA budget.

### Typical Process for Full Contract Negotiations:

~ ECCFA team meets and decides on proposed language changes ~ During meeting with administrative team, ECCFA presents their proposal and explains their rationale, having a conversation as needed ~ Administrative team takes the proposal to their own group and either accept the change or offer a counterproposal ~ When administration presents a proposal or counterproposal, ECCFA team then takes it into consideration in private and accepts or offers a counterproposal ~ Some items are concluded after a few proposals and counterproposals; some can take many meetings as the two teams work toward something they can both accept



For more information regarding the typical process for full contract negotiations and the time commitment, please [click here](#) or reach out to Chair [Ryan Kerr](#).

## Our ECC Library Now Has Libby!

With the [Libby app](#) or a [web browser](#), you can borrow up to five books at a time for 21 days, and enjoy unlimited magazine checkouts. Plus, there are no late fees—books return automatically at the end of the lending period, and you can even download titles for offline reading!



Please contact [Victoria Turner](#) if you have any questions or visit this [Blog post](#)

## Honors Committee Update by Jason Kane

As the Chair of the Honors Committee, it is enjoyable to share what our students are doing with our committee so they see the value in their committee work. Assessment or review procedures take on greater meaning, and I know our committee members most enjoy engaging with the students when they have the opportunity, such as judging during poster sessions at the Symposium or reviewing the transfer scholarship applications.

### Here are some of the things Honors committee members do:

- Continue to review Honors course proposals and work to increase course offerings for students.
- Continue to review student Campus and Community Engagement requests for recognition in Honors.
- Continue to review applications in Spring 2025 for full-tuition scholarships to North Central and Elmhurst.
- Continue to support the goals of the ECC Symposium planning and judging.
- Continue to support the overall goal of strengthening the Honors community and sense of belonging on campus.
- Continue to review policies and procedures to ensure Honors is open and accessible to students and enriches a student's learning experience at ECC.
- Continue to assess the Honors Program
- Develop partnerships with CURIC and CCE.
- Improve marketing and promotion of Honors to potential students, campus, and the community.
- Increase faculty participation in Honors.



As for what is enjoyable about the work, it is most definitely the direct connection to the students. Our primary goal as a group is to offer engaging learning opportunities for our students. By reviewing class proposals, seeing how they are engaging outside of the classroom, recommending scholarship winners, seeing their work displayed at our Symposium, and celebrating our Honors Program Graduates and Honors Program Achievers each semester, we get to see our students grow and succeed at ECC.

## Your ECCFA Membership Benefits



### Let's talk about spending some cold cash!

The ECCFA Negotiations team has successfully bargained to ensure that faculty have the resources (money) needed to support professional development, and the ability to purchase materials to support our teaching.

You actually have TWO sources of money that you can use to cover professional expenses and faculty development expenses. Think of it like having two separate piggy banks, one for **PROFESSIONAL EXPENSE REIMBURSEMENT BENEFIT (PERB)** and one for **FACULTY DEVELOPMENT BENEFIT (FDB)**. Please [click here](#) for details about both of these money sources from your Kim Tarver!

## New Member Feature: Anthony Bellavia

### Instructor of IMT / CIM



**Who is someone who has made a big impact on your life and why?** Russ Bartz, he was my old shop teacher and when I was 16 he was the one that got me to join the machining and manufacturing trade, and without him I would not be in the position I am today.

### What has been your biggest professional achievement?

My biggest and proudest professional achievement thus far was becoming an instructor at ECC. Having been in the manufacturing industry, and the apprenticeship program, I would've never thought I was going to be teaching manufacturing technology at my home school.

**What do you love the most about your career?** I always loved building and making things when I was young and that really spread into my career, which is how I got into manufacturing. To be able to design a part and then make it from scratch exactly how you imagined it was just so much fun for me. Now to show students how to do the same thing with their projects in class is a whole other enjoyment.



**Do you have any hobbies?** Some of my favorite hobbies are building cars, Power sports, Baja/rock crawling, Fishing, Mountain biking, Overlanding, traveling, etc.

**Best restaurant you've ever been to?** Lavore's on the hill was by far the best restaurant I have ever been to. The restaurant was in a very small town in northern Wisconsin but had the best prime rib on the planet. Sadly they had to close because of the pandemic.