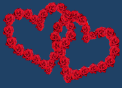


February 2025



ECCFA NEWS

The Sentinel: Elgin Community College Faculty Association Newsletter

What is in the February 2025 issue:

ISSUE CONTENTS - 1

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE - 1

LANE MOVEMENT - 1

ECCFA SOCIAL MEDIA - 1

THE MODERN 3 R'S - 2

NEW MEMBER FEATURE - 2

ECCFA OFFICE HOURS - 2

ECCFA President's Message

Despite the cold, things are heating up at ECC. With the flurry of activity at the college, my head is still spinning. In addition to all the positions we're filling or have filled, Dr. Heinrich became ECC's President and recently announced that all the interim positions in TLSD are permanent. We also have active searches for a CHRO and an Executive Director of Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion.

Additionally, the state legislature is in session, with activity likely on dual credit and possibly standardized course numbering. I serve on a statewide IFT workgroup on dual credit, where we hope to form a position all members of IFT can support, but because the majority of IFT members are from K-12, dual credit consensus with higher education is challenging.

Finally, we must manage all this in the current political climate, with the federal government sending immigration officers and other federal officials to the Chicago-land area. I don't know about you, but a lot of this feels far beyond my skill set. The college has provided some guidance, and I'm collecting resources from IFT to help us navigate these issues as well.

Nonetheless, I know you all have the best interest of our students in your hearts and will continue to provide the best education possible.

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

ECCFA Membership Minute By Kim Tarver, ECCFA Membership Chair

Let's talk about Lane Movement!

Did you know moving lanes drastically increases your lifetime earnings and potentially impacts your starting pension rate upon retirement? It's time to Bowl for Dollars and move some lanes!



How many credits do you need to move a lane? Great question! It depends on which lane you're in. You can find this information across the second row of the salary schedule in Appendix A of the [ECCFA Contract](#). The maximum horizontal movement is one (1) lane per year, or up to two (2) lanes in the year you complete a pre-approved and accredited degree program. You can read details in the [ECCFA contract 6.17, 8.8, and 10.15](#).

How can you earn credits that count toward lane movement? Well, there are three ways to do that. [Click here](#) for more information and helpful links!



Keep in Touch with ECCFA



If there is something you would like to see in our next Sentinel Newsletter, please feel free to contact the Sentinel Editor [Deyana Matt](#)

Arial's Modern Take on the 3 R's



Traditionally, the 3 Rs of Learning are "Reading, Writing and Rithmetic" but Arial Larson, an Adjunct Professor of Communications Studies, has devoted more than a decade to reworking the acronym as a community college educator. Her 3 R's are: **Road Time, Rewards & Rapport.**

Arial, who is based in Cherry Valley, uses her extensive **Road Time** to create, develop and improve innovative class activities. She favors interactive learning methods because they help students become comfortable with public speaking and with each other.

One example is her priority on **Rewards**. She quickly recognized that students, especially those with speech anxiety, often responded more to appreciation and acknowledgment of their efforts than scores and grades. She developed an award that shows the worth of categories for Certificates of Achievement and other forms of public recognition that have become a core part of her classroom culture.

Long recognized for her **Rapport** with students, Arial has resourcefully responded to ways to reach out beyond Speech classes. For example, she joined The Write Place team to serve students needing extra help with presentations and speeches. She also signed on to ECC's Upward Bound program which helps students with an extra boost of skills and confidence while preparing for college and even recruited her husband Gregg, a Testing and Development Engineer, to share his work experiences and career opportunities in manufacturing. Additionally, Arial frequently serves as a judge for Speech Tournaments.

Life as an Adjunct can have its uncertainties, but one thing has become clear for Arial; her 3 R's add up to a very important **4th R: Results**. Seeing students succeed has been worth the miles and will keep her coming back for as long as she can make it work.

New Member Feature: Shep Kirk

Instructor of ABE



What are you reading or listening to?

I've currently been reading the Hobbit aloud to my five year old son. It's been fun to start to share books with him that I remember from growing up.

Do you have any hobbies?

I enjoy remodeling and woodworking projects. Over the last several years my wife and I have completed a whole house remodel on our current home. It's been fun making the house our own.

What experiences and past roles have led you to where you are today at ECC?

I have spent over a decade as a high school teacher working at alternative schools with at-risk youth. The needs of my students led me to pursue my ESL endorsement and Masters in Curriculum and Instruction. This resulted in me coming back to ECC, my alma mater, and moonlighting as an ESL instructor for the last several years.

What do you/did you love the most about your career?

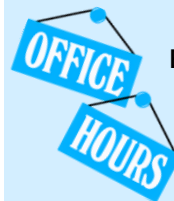
I love connecting with my students, hearing their stories and discovering the passions and goals that drive them to continue their education.

Who/what inspired you to choose this career path?

I have always been interested in a career in education. When I attended ECC as a student, I especially enjoyed philosophy, logic, and ethics classes with Professor Zacker and found his teaching style to be particularly engaging and influential.

New in 2025: ECCFA now has Office Hours!

We are trying something new...



ECCFA Leaders will be hosting office hours in a variety of locations throughout the semester. Locations will vary week to week based on volunteers and some sessions will be offered virtually via Zoom.

Get your questions about membership benefits and the contract answered, or just come to say 'Hello!'

Check out February's 1st week below or [click here](#) to learn more!

Day & Date	Time	Location	Host
Tuesday, February 4	3:00pm-4:00pm	Building A, Atrium	Kim Tarver
Wednesday, February 5	1:00pm-2:00pm	Jobe Lounge	Chris Cunningham
Thursday, February 6	8:00am-9:00am	ECCFA Office B296	Dan Kernler
Friday, February 7	11:30am-12:30pm	Virtual Zoom	Kim Tarver