

# Higher Education Sessions

## Adjunct Faculty Roundtable

Join other adjunct faculty (and anyone else interested) to discuss issues, concerns, challenges, victories at your local and with IEA.

**Presenter:** Vivian Zimmerman

## Anti-Racism Transformation Within Your Institution

The call for institutions to have a commitment to advancing their DEI missions is no longer a want, it is a dire need. Equitable redistribution of institutional power, outlining clear accountability protocols, and addressing issues of power and privilege within pedagogy and curriculum are just the beginning stages of dismantling systemic oppression and becoming an anti-racist institution. The goal of this session is to build skills towards being able to acknowledge both the accomplishments of one's institution, as well as how white supremacy and oppressive systems affect institutional culture and structure.

**Presenter:** Danielle Alexander (PD/CEU Hours = 1)

## Creating Inclusive and Affirming Learning Communities for LGBTQ+ Staff and Students

You can be agents of change to promote LGBTQ+ inclusive practices and policies in schools and on campuses. This session will review key vocabulary to expand our understanding of LGBTQ+ identities. We will also look at examples of model policies being implemented in districts and states across the country.

**Presenter:** Bill Farmer (PD/CEU Hours = 1)

## From VHS to A.I. Technology: Building an Innovator Mindset for the Classroom in an A.I. World

The college classroom has changed drastically in the last ten years, and educators need to catch up. The age of A.I. is taking over the college classroom, and it's time educators take advantage of the new wave of technology taking over the classroom. In this session, participants will partake in Innovator Mindset exercises. The exercises are meant to innovate the way content is taught in the classroom and to ensure that you control the technology, not the technology managing your classroom. The Innovator Mindset tool will be discussed as a classroom innovation method. **Presenter:** Dr. Jay Fulgencio

## Is it a Gripe or a Grievance

This session will explore the differences between a gripe and a grievance on our higher education campuses, how to handle disputes when they are not subject to the grievance process, and how to explain the grievance process for members with issues as well as when members are the subject of grievances from students.

In this session we will also explore ways to research, draft, process, and settle grievances.

We will explore common policies and procedures at our campuses that impact members and how board of trustee and system-level practices impact reporting and resolution of issues. **Presenter:** Kimberly McClellan

## It's Not About You: Structural and Systemic Racism

Participants will:

- Be able to identify different types of racism
- Gain education regarding the subject of race creation
- Gain insight into the history of structural and systemic racism
- Gain an understanding of the current systems of structural and systemic racism
- Participate in a solution-minded discussion

**Presenter:** Jeremy Allen (PD/CEU Hours = 2)

## Professional Development – Adjunct to Adjunct

This presentation takes adjunct faculty professional growth to a whole new level by creating connections among higher education faculty members. Learn how one union has cemented collegiality among its adjunct faculty by developing their own "best practices" conference. Join us to learn how to create professional development in-house by hosting a special conference and discuss current trends in teaching and advocacy.

**Presenters:** Dr. Amelia (Ami) Hicks and Jennifer Wilson

## Social-Emotional Learning in the Higher Education Setting, Post COVID

Trauma, chronic conditions, major life changes, and hassles can cause stress responses. Individuals may feel aroused resulting in physiological responses. Prolonged responses can become harmful. The effect of stressors varies based on personality characteristics and prior life experiences. Effective coping strategies are important to reduce the negative impact of stress. Helping students to adapt positive lifestyle choices as they juggle family, work, and school, may prove to enhance overall learning and engagement.

This session will introduce you to the perspective applied to stress, different stressors, physiological responses to stress, coping strategies, and practical supports to foster a community of learning.

**Presenter:** Dr. Katherine Campbell (PD/CEU Hours = 1)

## Take Two: Advocating for Students on the Second Attempt at a Core Course

During the spring of 2023, my department chair reached out to me to instruct an English 101 Composition course where the majority of students either failed or withdrew from the class in the fall. With hesitation, I accepted the assignment and realized quickly I would alter my position from instructor to advocate.

As another result of post-COVID teaching, Higher Education instructors will face many students on their second and third attempts at the core courses for their institutions. These students require structure, discipline, guidance, and understanding to continue their goals in Higher Ed. This presentation aims to depict the problems associated with previous failures and encourage instructors to augment their teaching style with some reimagined techniques.

**Presenter:** Jen Wilson

## Through Not Just To: Helping Students with FAFSA After Enrollment

Financial Aid offices around the country are bombarded every August and September by students needing and wanting to be processed and ready for class. However, often times students lack the know-how of what is needed. FAFSA is a necessary process for every student. But what about the student who is first generation and received FAFSA Assistance from their high school. Do they know how to complete the FAFSA application on their own now that they are enrolled in college? Can someone in the Financial Aid Office of their college assist them? The answer to both questions is usually, NO! We must create safe spaces for these students to get help to figure out how to get it done right!

**Presenter:** Dr. Felicia Young

## Where Did All the Money Go? COVID Relief Funds and Higher Education

Over the course of several years of the COVID pandemic, the federal government has provided over \$76 billion in pandemic relief funding to higher education institutions. Find out more about the various pots of money, their intended recipients and uses, and how to research how much your institution received and what it spent that money on. We'll also discuss how knowing these particulars might help your local advocate for its members, particularly during contract negotiations. **Presenter:** Frank Brooks

## Higher Education After Dinner Presentation – Senator Dale Fowler, Co-Chair Higher Education Committee



# IEA-Retired Sessions

## A Brief (and Surprisingly Interesting) History of Brick in Chicago

This session will bring you knowledge of the usage of brickwork in Chicago's rich history. You will be amazed at how much local places and perhaps even your own home may be part of this rich workmanship. **Presenter:** Will Quam

## Aging with Grace

How do we age with grace? We will discuss ageism through various types of systems such as healthcare, transportation, the workplace, and the economy. **Presenters:** Melba Jones-Searcy & Laura Saracco

## Elevate Your Smart Phone Photos

Nearly everyone has a smartphone these days, but not all mobile photos are created equal! This session will shed some light on the tools, tips, and tricks you can use to elevate the moments you capture on your smartphone. Strategies shared will be applicable to both iOS and Android, unless noted during the presentation. **Presenter:** Kelsey Harms

## Food Fads from the 40s, 50s, and 60s

Remember Jell-O salads and cheese sprayed out of a can? When every pantry held Velveeta and all the kids wanted to drink Tang? Join historian and author Leslie Goddard for a nostalgic look at the food innovations and marketing approaches that transformed how we ate at midcentury. Using classic cookbooks, advertisements, and family magazines, we'll explore how society and technology shaped American food from the 1940s through the 1960s. **Presenter:** Dr. Leslie Goddard

## Get to Know Ben Franklin; Portrayal by Tim Connors

Through stories, humor, and facts about his being a founding father and patriot of this country, learn of Ben Franklin's thirst for ideas, his life's stories, and legacy that impacts our lives today. This entertaining and educational portrayal is, thanks in part, to bad pandemic hair that led to a convincing Halloween outfit and requests for portrayals for this former speech/drama teacher. The goal is to learn more about an important man in American history who was known for his humor, being a founding father who wanted to create a new nation the right way, and being an inventor. **Presenter:** Tim Connors

## Legislative Update on Retired Issues

Legislative Update focusing on retiree issues; legislative year in review, pensions, and healthcare. **Presenter:** Will Lovett

## Long-Term Care Ombudsman Program – Advocates for Those Living in Long-Term Care Facilities

The Ombudsman program came into existence through the Older American's Act to help give a voice to those who live in long-term care communities. During this session we will share how the Ombudsman in Illinois works with facilities across the state to help make sure that people living in these communities receive the care that they need, want, and deserve. We will discuss how the program works, access to the advocacy, and why this is a vital program.

**Presenters:** Lindsey Herza

## Mindfulness or Mindful: Slowing Down

During this session you will learn tools and techniques for time management, and wellness practices you can do to regain a sense of calm and balance. You will leave with practical, evidence-based tools to use with students and in meetings that will create more ease and flow while managing the increased demands of life. Wear comfortable clothes as we will practice some light yoga. Beginners welcome! **Presenters:** Gina Harris & Al Llorens

## Olympic Pride American Prejudice

This session will focus on 17 US Olympians who participated, along with Jesse Owens, in the 1936 Olympics. This will be presented by the daughter of Tidy Pickett, who was one of the Olympians. **Presenter:** Bernita Echols

## Read With Me

I have been a Kindergarten teacher for the past 24 years, but when my precious children made me a Nana, I started baking and decorating cookies. By combining my new love of baking with my passion for reading to children, I developed Book Buddies. I make book-themed cookies and give parents, grandparents, and caregivers some guidance on how to pick out books and read to children. In this session you will receive a book and decorate a cookie to go along with it. Hopefully you will leave ready to cuddle up with a child to share a story and cookie. The cost is \$10 (cash only) paid on entering the session to cover the materials provided.

**Presenter:** Michelle Kelzer

## Scam Spotter Training

Can you spot common tech scams? This session will feature eight trending tech scams and discuss tips to avoid them, as well as best practices to remain safe while online! Join this session to learn more about smishing, student loan forgiveness scams, gift card scams, plus how to spot scams in Facebook messenger. **Presenters:** Kelsey Harms & Jay Fyalka

## Ship Ahoy! Learn About Our Impact on the World

Join a former NOAA Teacher at Sea and NOAA book club leader to learn about her journey on a scientific research ship. Take a look at research to see how the climate and oceans are changing, how what we do on the planet controls more than we think, and receive simple suggestions on how we can make changes for our future and the future of our students.

**Presenter:** Carol Schnaiter

## Understanding Voter Suppression as We Get Ready for 2024

Our members need to be able to recognize and understand the well-coordinated nation-wide groups who threaten our voting rights. In this session you will use the historical and up-to-the-moment data and information shared by the presenters and others in group discussions. You will learn how to use their advocacy strategies to effectively share information about all aspects of voting and about the groups who threaten our voting rights with their state and local affiliate members, family/friends, and their community.

**Presenters:** Diane Chapman & Carol Schnaiter

## You are Retired, Your NEA Members Benefits Are Not

Come learn how to use your NEA Member Benefits to help save money on travel, everyday purchases, and much more. You will learn how to access your benefits on the website and how to maximize your travel benefits and resources. Learn while playing a fun game to win gift cards.

**Presenter:** Sandy Hupp

## Retired After Dinner Presentation – Music

Come enjoy music from the 60's and 70's performed by classically trained guitarist, Jim Perona. Jim is a Wheaton native who performs for weddings and private events. **Presenter:** Jim Perona



# Education Support Professionals Sessions

## 2023 IMRF Update

Whether you're new to IMRF or getting ready for your retirement, this session provides an opportunity to learn about the requirements for participating in IMRF along with how your benefits are determined. We'll also discuss the contributions that you and your employer are required to make, along with the Voluntary Additional Contribution Program. Information about 2023 Legislation and how it may affect you will be provided. Bring your questions with you to the meeting.

**Presenters:** Bonnie Shadid & Brian Glover

## 4 Keys for Building Strong Education Support Professional Locals

As a local leader or organizer, it can sometimes be a challenge to get members actively involved at the local level. You may also feel overwhelmed by the number of responsibilities you have and wonder how you can find the time to add membership recruitment and engagement as an on-going activity. You will learn how to create an on-going membership engagement plan that focus on the four keys for building and maintaining a strong Education Support Professional local. The four keys are Membership Recruitment, Engagement, Development, and Retention. We will walk you through the four keys and share activities you can use to help engage your members. Lastly, we will work on creating twelve-month membership engagement plan. Utilizing the membership engagement plan will help incorporate membership engagement as an on-going practice within your local. **Presenter:** Crystal Bush

## Behavior Management from an Education Support Professional Perspective

Participants in this session will learn proactive behavior techniques for a wide variety of student behaviors and situations. You will learn how student behavior is a form of communication and could be symptoms of a larger problem. Participants who successfully complete this session will leave with tried and true tips and tricks to positively address disruptive behavior. This session is for a wide variety of education support professional job categories.

**Presenter:** Gina Lozano

## Building Representative Training – For New or Experienced Reps

Whether you are a new building rep or would like a refresher, this training is for you. Participants will engage in discussions about the responsibilities and expectations for being an Association Building Representative. They will also explore the many hats worn by a building representative which include the following: organizer, communicator, leader, advisor, and contract enforcer. Tips and tricks for building relationships with building administrators and a sample Building Representative Handbook will also be shared. If you are trying to establish your own building rep training in your local, come see what we have to offer. **Presenters:** Lorelei Mobley & Kathleen Jesuit

## Building Your Skills with Google Docs and Google Workspace

Are you ready to build your skills with Google Docs and Google Workspace? In this session we'll cover the essential features of Google Docs including how to create and format documents and insert media. We'll create a simple form with Google Forms to collect data and learn how to track responses with Google Sheets. Finally, we'll discuss tips and tricks for sharing and collaborating on files with others. Attendees in this session may wish to have a device with them to practice concepts as they are presented. **Presenters:** Kelsey Harms & Jill Scarcelli

## Collective Well-Being for Educators/Abolitionist Education

With schools opening lots of focus is on SEL for students however, SEL is for adults as well. Abolitionist Education focuses on restoring humanity to a space of love, healing, hope, and joy. Building authentic interest in relationships is a key piece to student success. As educators, we need to also focus on not just the well-being of students, but the well-being of adults who are in front of students. **Presenter:** Eboni Rucker (PD/CEU Hours = 2)

## Cultural Competence Vocabulary

This session is an opportunity to gain the awareness and knowledge necessary to becoming culturally responsive. This foundational session will focus on concepts and vocabulary related to social justice, racial justice, and equity – all necessary for framing any conversation or practice regarding race, diversity, equity, and inclusion. **Presenter:** Bobby Rickman (PD/CEU Hours = 1)

## Demystifying Power in the Workplace

Union Activists often believe they lack access to the power needed to positively change their work environment. In this workshop activists will learn how power is constructed, what the types and sources of power are, how access to power has been limited, how to negotiate and overcome those limitations, how to utilize power mapping to understand an organization's political landscape, and the union's power within that landscape. Union Activists will also learn why power can be intoxicating, and how to guard against one's own likelihood of misusing power. **Presenters:** Crystal Bush & Jeremy Allen

## Empower and Energize Connections as a Paraeducator

This is an interactive session designed to empower and energize paraeducators. Participants will:

- learn tools and resources for daily/yearly responsibilities and expectations.
- receive tools and resources to effectively communicate, advocate, collaborate, and work side-by-side other educators.
- be able to collaborate with other staff to prepare and review emergency procedures, medical, and security procedures.

**Presenter:** Susan Nicholas

## Finding Your Voice as a Leader

The session will focus on developing leadership skills for members. Attendees will learn about how to develop a winning team in your local and get members engaged and willing to be involved in the union. All leaders are different and finding your leadership style and voice is critical to being a successful leader.

**Presenter:** Bobby Rickman

## How to Engage and Support Local Members

I was treasurer/secretary of my local and will share how to get members involved, to feel supported, and knowledgeable of our union. Also, I will share how the personal touch helps to bring members together and makes them want to be an active part of our union. **Presenter:** Holly Smigelski

## How to Help the Less Fortunate Kids with Everyday Essentials

Even though COVID is over, help is still needed. I run a The Closet-at Eisenhower High School in Blue Island. I would like to help others have this resource available for their students. There is help out there for everyone you just have to find it. I will share ways of finding help. **Presenter:** Debbie Ciciora

## If I Knew Then What I Know Now

Retirement is a big step in an Education Support Professional's life. This session will give you some information about things to consider when planning on retirement soon or in the near future. From district and IMRF benefits, Social Security, penalties for retiring early, to health insurance and Medicare, there are many things to consider when planning on retirement. This session will give some basic information and timelines along with other information to help make the decision to retire more informed and easier. **Presenter:** Rosemary Majerczyk

## Making Learning Fun

Small group instruction can be made fun using simple accommodations. You will be able to make games and individual learning materials. I will share materials and games that I have made as well. We will also make an individual game folder for a student or a small group. **Presenter:** Julie Spaargaren

## Mentoring Your Education Support Professionals

Peer Mentoring Programs for Education Support Professionals are few and far between. Implementing a Peer Mentoring program is a way to support your new Education Support Professionals in their professional and personal growth. Let us share with you what our Peer Mentoring Program looks like and how we support our new Education Support Professionals; introducing them to our school district, our Union, and how we help them through their first year.

**Presenter:** Connie Joniec

## Papercuts: Understanding Microaggressions in the Workplace

Microaggressions can cause discord in the workplace and prevent educators from doing their personal best in schools with their students and colleagues. Participants will learn what they are, when they happen, how they contribute to creating toxic work cultures, along with strategies such as Micro-Affirmations to reduce their occurrence. We will have clear discussions about microaggressions to create deeper and meaningful collaboration among colleagues in our educational communities. **Presenter:** Linda Matsumoto (PD/CEU Hours = 1)

## Team Building for All Educators

Have fun with your team in this action-packed, hands-on session while building relationships and improving morale. Enhance interpersonal relations by learning to identify the way people function beyond having a title. This session will encompass NEA competencies as well as NEA ESPQ Standards.

**Presenters:** Robert Powell & Adrian Vargas

## True Colors

True Colors® is a model for understanding yourself and others based on your communication style and temperament. The colors Orange, Gold, Green, and Blue are used to differentiate the four central True Colors® communication styles. Each of us has a combination of the four True Colors® that make up our temperament spectrum, usually with one of the styles being the most dominant. By identifying your communication style (and those of others), True Colors® provides insights into different motivations, actions, and communication approaches. **Presenters:** Amy Evans & Mike Williamson (PD/CEU Hours = 2)

## Using Gmail to Connect with Members

Gmail is a very powerful tool that can be leveraged to connect your members with what is happening in your local. In this session we'll break down all the basics, so you are ready to communicate like a pro! Learn how to switch between Google accounts to ensure you're doing your union work on personal accounts, how to draft an email and the various features you can use inside a message, schedule/send your message so that it arrives at just the right time, create a contact and apply a label to quickly send a message to a group, use email best practices to dodge the spam filters, and learn how IEA can help via the Communication Tool Request form. Attendees may wish to have a device with them to practice concepts as they are presented.

**Presenters:** Kelsey Harms & Jill Scarcelli

# General Session

## Conducting Local Elections

The training will provide information to assist in the proper and smooth operation of local and regional IEA-NEA elections as required by the Landrum Griffin Act, IEA Election Procedures and IEA-NEA Bylaws. The entire process, from notification of the election through storage of election materials, will be discussed. This training is beneficial to anyone involved in the election process at the local or regional level.

**Presenters:** Cathy Erickson & Gabby Rosenblum

## Leading with Integrity and Grace: Leaders Guide to Personal Growth

This session is designed to help leaders navigate the continual perplexities of leadership. We will delve into topics such as understanding the difference between friends and positional relationships, separating personal beliefs and choices, likes and dislikes, from what's best for teaching and learning.

Attendees are reminded that leadership is not a dictatorship. Collaboration, respect, and consideration for all involved will greatly lessen divides and make the workplace, that is by definition challenging, a more desirable place to grow, learn, and matriculate. **Presenter:** Karen Triche (PD/CEU Hours = 1)

## Membership Processing for Local Membership Chairs/Contacts

This in-depth look at the membership processing function starts with the basic requirements in the IEA Bylaws and other documents that set forth the parameters and responsibilities of enrolling and tracking all IEA members. This will include new changes to the way in which IEA dues are assessed for new and continuing members. You'll get a detailed look at local membership chair functions including: a walk-through of the online enrollment platform, an in-depth training of the electronic billing platform used to download reports and update member information, view monthly billing statements, current IEA balances, and paying your local's IEA bills electronically. You will have the chance to interact with your peers to discuss how you handle some of these activities and ask specific questions.

**Presenters:** Dawn Hall & Jamie Schumacher

