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The Dispatch

Community News for Minnesota State University Adjuncts and Community Faculty

WELCOME!

Welcome to the inaugural issue of *The Dispatch*, a brand new resource for adjuncts and community faculty working at the seven MinnState universities! The purpose of this monthly newsletter is manifold. I hope it serves to create a much-needed sense of community for the roughly fourteen hundred adjuncts who live and teach across the state, whether you are a community professional teaching on the side, a retired faculty member, or one of the many of us cobbling together a living at one or more institutions, serving ourselves and our students the best we can. As an adjunct who has worked in four states and at five universities over the last six years, I know there are many times I would've liked to have it. As the current chair of your statewide Contingent Faculty Committee, I hope it will better communicate the efforts of the many kind and stubborn and brilliant people working behind the scenes at the IFO on your behalf. And as an adjunct in the History Departments at Southwest Minnesota State and Minnesota State Mankato, I will endeavor to see that it includes timely news and practical resources that are useful for your daily lives. Feel free to drop in and say hi at the email below.

Sincerely, Ry Marcattilio-McCracken
dispatch.newsletter@gmail.com

A FEW WORDS FROM BRENT JEFFERS, IFO PRESIDENT

This story can fit 75-125 words.

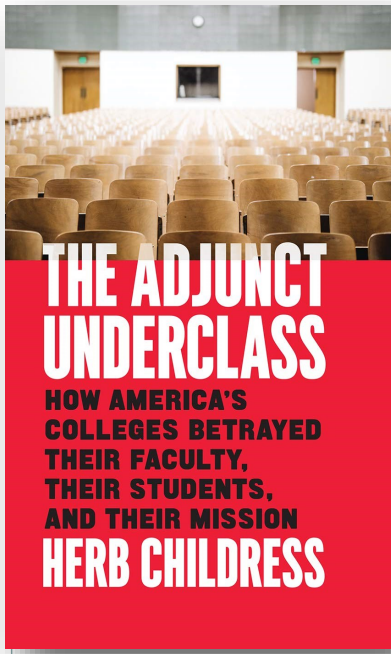
Your headline is an important part of the newsletter and should be considered carefully.

In a few words, it should accurately represent the contents of the story and draw readers into the story. Develop the headline before you write the story. This way, the headline will help you keep the story focused.

Examples of possible headlines include Product Wins Industry Award, New Product Can Save You Time!, Membership Drive Exceeds Goals, and New Office Opens Near You.

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THE ADJUNCT UNDERCLASS BY HERB CHILDRESS

Herb Childress, with a patient but determined shovel, exposes the structural origins of the adjunctification of Higher Ed in this spring 2019 release. Over eight chapters he documents the roots, evolution, and consequences (both hidden and obvious) that come with a system that has consistently come to prefer what it sees as an interchangeable, low-cost work force it doesn't have to employ on long-term contracts.

He persuasively charts how vanishing state funds and ever more complex managerial systems have led universities at all levels—from community college to SLAC to Ivy League powerhouse—to increasing reliance on contingent teaching labor. The consequences are damning.

This book will be an eye-opener for grad students, recently graduated job-seekers, and adjuncts who have held on, eating the costs of what Childress calls “hope labor.” The hard truth he uncovers is that these jobs are never, ever coming back.

It's also critical for undergraduates and their parents, seeking to understand why tuition has increased threefold over the last forty years while first- and second-year courses continue to be taught by the ubiquitous faculty member named “Staff.” The long-term consequences of this shift are troublesome.

This book is a must-read. Get it at the links below.

[Powell's Books](#)//[Barnes and Noble](#)//[Amazon](#)

*“College teaching, as a profession, is being eliminated one small, undetected drop at a time.” —Herb Childress, *The Adjunct Underclass* (2019)*

DID YOU KNOW?

ADJUNCT FACULTY NOW HAVE ACCESS TO PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT GRANTS

The Faculty Improvement Grant (FIG) funds come from MNSCU in accordance with Article 19, Section A of the IFO contract. Each university awards FIG grants in order to assist adjunct faculty in improving their performance in relation to the following two professional development criteria: “scholarly or creative achievement or research” and “continuing preparation and study.”

Eligibility: All adjunct faculty who teach one course of at least 4 credits or teach a minimum of 2 courses within an academic year (note: summer courses, for this purpose, are not considered part of the academic year) are eligible

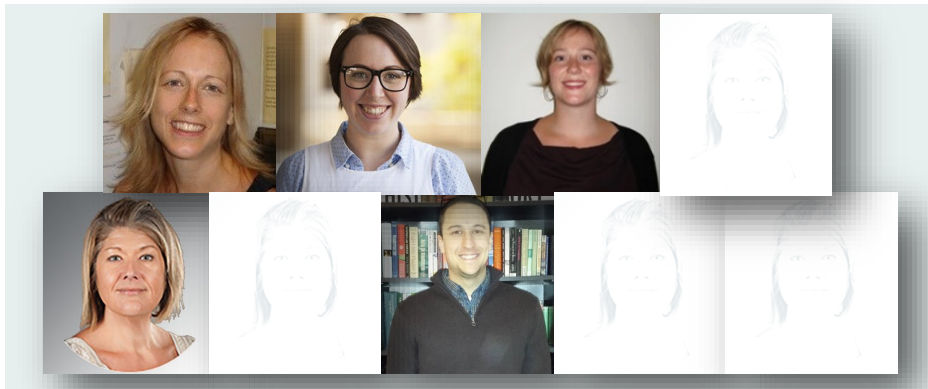
Faculty Improvement Grants are awarded each fall and spring, during the first few weeks of the semester.

For more, email your campus contingent faculty committee or your faculty association president. Find this contact information at ifo.org.

CONTINGENT FACULTY IN THE NEWS

- American Association of University Professors: [Data Snapshot– Contingent Faculty in Higher Ed](#)
- Chicago Booth Review: [What's driving universities to use more adjunct faculty?](#)
- Inside Higher Ed: [Precarious faculty and our online digital learning community](#)
- Inside Higher Ed: [A contingent faculty compromise](#)
- Greensboro News and Record: [Elon University's adjuncts win another union victory, but the university appeals again](#)
- The Trinitonian: [Trinity College faculty senate to include contingent faculty](#)
- Chronicle Vitae: [Anatomy of a polite revolt in Columbia's English Department](#)
- Daily Commercial: [Santa Fe College adjunct union vote ends in defeat](#)
- Missoulian: [Faculty union at the University of Montana files grievance that the university relies on too many adjunct faculty](#)
- Columbia Spectator: [Barnard College loses second round of arbitration for failing to give adjuncts good-faith offers for additional courses](#)
- The Observer: [Fordham University contingent faculty see big wins in pay, course scheduling](#)
- NYTimes: [Grad students at private universities see setbacks after voting to](#)

MEET YOUR STATEWIDE CAC REPRESENTATIVES



From top left, they are: Heidi Newbauer, Mankato; Emily Sauter, Mankato; Anna Kurhajec, Metro State; Travis Sands, Metro State; Dan Allosso, Bemidji; Brenda Kocezny, Moorhead; Ana Mitrovici, Moorhead; Ry Marcattilio-McCracken, Southwest; Julie Walker, Southwest

The Contingent Appointments Committee (CAC) meets four times a year and addresses matters of concern to faculty with fixed-term, adjunct, and community faculty appointments. It sends three of its members to serve on the IFO Board of Directors, which meets seven times a year. It also sends members to the Negotiations Advisory Committee, a contingent faculty-only group which responds to requests from and otherwise provides critical insight to the union's negotiating team during contract negotiations.

Each campus sends one adjunct and one fixed-term (or two community faculty) to represent their interests for two-year terms. If you're interested in learning more or serving the interests of contingent faculty across the MinnState system, contact your local FA President! We'd love to have you.

WELCOME TO MIKE SHARP, CONTINGENT FACULTY ORGANIZER



Michael Sharp currently serves as an adjunct professor at St. Cloud State University where he teaches courses on Race and Human Relations and Non-Oppressive Relationships. During his 15 plus years in academic advising at the university, he also held multiple leadership positions within MSUAASF (Administrative and Service Faculty).

Michael has been on the Minnesota Supreme Court's roster of certified neutrals for over twenty years and has twice attended the National Conference of the Center for Collective Bargaining in Higher Education in NYC. Michael is excited to learn more from other contingent faculty working at Minnesota State universities and to learn how our diverse needs might best be represented and served by the IFO.

MEET AN ADJUNCT



Hi! I'm Heidi Burns. I've been teaching English composition for nearly twenty years. My research interests vary, but right now I spend a lot of my time presenting and writing about 1) how to better teach research to undergraduates, and 2) improving online pedagogy.

I did my graduate work at Iowa State University (Go Cyclones!), I'm a Montana Native living far from family, a full-time contingent employee (juggling jobs between MSU Mankato, St. Petersburg College in FL, Capstone Publishing, and freelance editing), and an author (I somehow managed to co-author a book in my spare time called *Intellectual Creativity in First Year Composition Classes*).

I would be remiss to mention that I'm also the mother of three teenage boys (all on a trajectory to be six-foot-three and taller), a wife, a sister, and a community volunteer. I like to tell my students that I work to pay the bills, I read to stay smart, and I run to stay sane.

Three fun facts about me:

- 1) I think manual transmissions are superior in every way to automatic transmissions
- 2) I went skydiving a long time ago (Exhilarating! Never again!)
- 3) My favorite movie of all time is *Empire Records* (weekend homework if you've never seen it!)

EVENTS/MEETUPS

Mankato Contingent Faculty Meetup,
Monday, November 4,
Wine Caf , 6-8pm