



## *The Dispatch*

### *News for Minnesota State University Adjunct, Fixed-Term, and Community Faculty*

#### WELCOME!

Welcome to the inaugural issue of *The Dispatch*, a brand new resource for adjunct, fixed-term, and community faculty working at the seven MinnState universities! The purpose of this newsletter is manifold. I hope it provides opportunities for tenured and tenure-track faculty looking to support their contingent faculty colleagues. I also hope it serves to create a much-needed sense of community and resource for the roughly fourteen hundred adjuncts who live and teach across the state, whether you're a community professional teaching on the side, a retired faculty member, or among 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 kind and stubborn and brilliant people working behind the scenes at the IFO on your behalf. And as an adjunct faculty member in the History Departments at Southwest Minnesota State 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.

Ry Marcattilio-McCracken, History Program, SMSU  
dispatch.newsletter@gmail.com

#### A FEW WORDS FROM BRENT JEFFERS, IFO PRESIDENT

Faculty with contingent appointments across the country and in the MinnState System have long brought added value to our academic programs, our institutions, and the students we serve. As dedicated professionals with credentials, practical experience, and in many cases, special expertise not found in the permanent staff, these faculty help deliver our curriculum and enhance our collective pedagogy. In the IFO, our faculty with contingent appointments also make extraordinary contributions to our union and represent the interest of all faculty with integrity and resolve. We have faculty with contingent appointments serving on our IFO Board of Directors, our statewide Meet & Confer Committee, active in our organizing efforts, and members who serve on our Contingent Appointments Advisory Committee to the Negotiating Team. As IFO President, I have the good fortune of being invited to meetings with our statewide Contingent Appointment Committee (CAC) where our representatives from Adjunct, Community Faculty, and Fixed-Term Appointments push important issues to the forefront of our organization and provide input that makes our union stronger. We invite and welcome more engagement!

Brent Jeffers, IFO President

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