A Union of Professionals
Staff Guild
Local 1521A

JULY 2026 EDITION

Communications Committee Newsletter

Fall 2026

Welcome to the Fall Semester

Welcome to the start of the fall semester! With a new school year getting underway, things are about to pick up, and the pace is likely to get a little busier for all of us.

While some of us may have managed to sneak in a little vacation this summer, we know summer does not mean time off for most of us. We keep things moving year-round, and now we are heading into another busy season together.

Before things get hectic, take a minute to make sure your contact information is up to date. And if you do not already know your chapter chair, now is a great time to say hello. They are your first point of contact when a question comes up and a great resource throughout the year.

Here's to a busy fall and a great start to the new school year!

Professional Development

Get Certified

Study for Your Microsoft Office Specialist (MOS) Certification

Want to earn your **Microsoft Office Specialist (MOS)** certification? LAPC's Center for Professional Excellence has a SharePoint site with study materials for the exam. It covers Word, Excel, PowerPoint, and Outlook. Start there.

Access MOS Study Resources

Note: This SharePoint site requires your LACCD login to access.

For questions contact William Madrigal.

Upcoming Events

Labor Day • Volunteer

47th Annual Solidarity Parade & Picnic

Labor Day, Monday, September 7, 2026

📍 Banning Park, 1331 Eubank Ave, Wilmington, CA 90744

🕑 Shifts: Morning (7:00 AM – 12:00 Noon) & Afternoon (12:00 Noon – 5:00 PM)

Spend Labor Day with union members and their families from across the region. We need volunteers for both shifts, so sign up for whichever one works for you.

Sign Up to Volunteer

Free Online Training

Immigration: Workers' Rights & Responsibilities

Wednesday, October 28, 2026 • 4:00 – 5:30 PM

💻 Online (CFT Training)

A free online CFT training on your rights and responsibilities as a worker. Register through the CFT calendar.

Register on CFT Website

Political Action

COPE Corner

Recent COPE Action At the August 14, 2026 Emergency Executive Board meeting, AFT 1521A took action on endorsements for candidates in the upcoming LACCD Board of Trustees and other key races. These endorsements reflect our commitment to supporting candidates who stand with classified professionals, public education, and organized labor. Stay tuned for a special COPE newsletter featuring our endorsed candidates, important election information, and opportunities for members to get involved.

Get Involved Today

Join COPE by clicking below, completing the membership form, and selecting a monthly contribution amount. Every dollar builds a stronger voice for educators.

Sign Up For COPE

Member Spotlight

Keith Lamar Williams

Instructional Assistant, Assistive Technology, Los Angeles Valley College

Author of "Leap of Faith: A Life of Music, Disability, Resilience, and Reinvention"



Keith Lamar Williams is an Instructional Assistant specializing in Assistive Technology at Los Angeles Valley College. Born legally blind, he has dedicated his career to helping students with disabilities gain greater access to education through technology, accessibility, and practical support.

In his memoir, *Leap of Faith: A Life of Music, Disability, Resilience, and Reinvention*, Keith shares his journey through the music industry, living with a disability, overcoming personal challenges, and discovering new purpose through education and advocacy. His story is one of resilience, perseverance, and the belief that life's greatest obstacles can become opportunities for growth and reinvention.

Today, Keith continues to empower others by demonstrating how assistive technology and artificial intelligence can increase independence, improve communication, expand educational access, and create new opportunities for employment and lifelong learning.

Learn More On Amazon

Submitted by Aleta Campbell, LAVC Chapter Chair

CBA Tip of the Month

Know Your Rights

CBA Digest – Contract Corner Spotlight

Working Out of Class

If you are regularly assigned duties that belong to a higher job classification, your CBA may entitle you to extra pay for that work. This comes up a lot when someone covers a vacancy or picks up higher-level tasks.

Did You Know?

Working out of class is not the same as helping out here and there. It usually means doing the main duties of a higher classification for a set stretch of time. If that sounds like your situation, keep a record of the dates and what you did.

If you have questions about whether this applies to you, talk to your chapter representative.

Reminder: *This section is for general awareness. For specific situations, please contact your union rep.*

View The Full CBA

Know Your Union Rights

Weingarten Rights ensure your right to have union representation during meetings with your supervisor that may lead to discipline. Use the statement below to assert your rights.

Say this word-for-word to your supervisor if you believe a meeting may lead to discipline:

> **"If this discussion may result in disciplinary action, termination, or impact my working conditions, I respectfully request the presence of a union representative. Without representation, I respectfully decline to participate in this discussion."**

SAVE THIS STATEMENT FOR EASY ACCESS:

- Bookmark or save this page
- Print and keep a copy at your desk
- Email it to yourself for quick reference

Member Benefits

Exclusive perks for AFT members



Gym Memberships
Discounted fitness plans



Entertainment
Ticket discounts



All Benefits
Explore everything

Free for Members: AFT Student Debt Clinics

The rules for federal student loans are changing. The SAVE plan is ending, several income-driven repayment plans are being phased out, and a new Repayment Assistance Plan started July 1, 2026.

AFT runs free weekly clinics that walk you through the changes and explain how Public Service Loan Forgiveness (PSLF) works. They are free for members and open every week.

Register For A Clinic

SELF-CARE TIP

Ease Into the Semester

The first few weeks move fast. Take your breaks, keep water at your desk, and try to leave on time. Small habits like these add up when the workload picks up.

Contact Your Chapter Chair

Have questions or need support? Reach out to your campus chapter chair directly.

CAMPUS	CHAPTER CHAIR	EMAIL
LACC	Jasminee Haywood-Daley *Interim*	cclacc@aft-1521a.org
ESC	Gloria Moreno *Interim*	ccesc@aft-1521a.org
ELAC	Rowena Smith-Kersaint	ccelac@aft-1521a.org
LAHC	Nadine Muro	cclahc@aft-1521a.org
LAMC	Cesar Contreras	cclamc@aft-1521a.org
LAPC	Sean McDonald	cclapc@aft-1521a.org
LASC	Ruben Villanueva	cclasc@aft-1521a.org
LATTC	Kookie Williams *Interim*	cclattc@aft-1521a.org

CAMPUS	CHAPTER CHAIR	EMAIL
LAVC	Aleta Campbell	cclavc@aft-1521a.org
WLAC	Maritza Medina	ccwlac@aft-1521a.org

LACC, ESC, and LATTC members: there is a Special Election underway for Chapter Chair. In the meantime, you can reach out to the Interim Chapter Chair, any Districtwide Officer, or the Staff Guild office for support at **323-851-1521**.

Resources

AFT 1521A Website

2023–2026 Collective Bargaining Agreement (CBA)

MOS Certification Study Resources (SharePoint)

AFT Student Debt Clinics & PSLF

Union Plus Member Benefits

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Staff Guild
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Communications Committee

Leslie Cruz • Melinda Ung • Elonda Austin • Chair: Kimberly "Kim" Jovel

Questions? Please reach out to **Kimberly “Kim” Jovel**

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