



THIS WEEK'S FACEBOOK

QUESTION:

How have you used the October Nor'easter as discussion in your classes?

Union News

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“We Are Ohio” Effort a Success

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Tuesday marked a historic and inspiring victory for the labor movement and for those of us who work in higher education—especially for Ohio faculty, but also for faculty in the nation as a whole.

That's because yesterday, voters in Ohio repealed—by a margin of 61 percent to 39 percent—antiunion legislation that would have severely restricted the collective bargaining rights of Ohio public-sector workers. The legislation singled out faculty, making most full-time faculty ineligible to participate in unions by declaring them to be "managers."

Alongside members of other unions, Ohio AAUP members gathered signatures, held informational events, and helped get out the vote. Many who had not been habitual activists were galvanized by the severity of the threat. AAUP chapters, staff, and individual members from across the country also pitched in with labor and with donations. As a whole, National AAUP was able to contribute nearly \$700,000 to the We Are Ohio campaign, which spearheaded the repeal effort, and CSU-AAUP donated \$5,000 to the effort.

BOR Hires HR and Public Affairs Staff

The Board of Regents for Higher Education is in the process of consolidating its staff before it officially takes over on January 1, 2012. However, a few of its recent hires have not come from the current pool of administrators at the constituent System Offices.

The regents hired Steven Weinberger, who began serving as the new head of human resources in late October. Prior to returning to Connecticut, Weinberger was chief of human resources at the University of Maine where Board of Regents President Robert Kennedy served as president. Weinberger is a Connecticut native who has held human resource managerial positions with the Connecticut comptroller's office and the Connecticut Office of Labor Relations.

It was also announced on November 1 that Colleen Flanagan, who has served as Director of Communications for Governor Malloy since his election in 2010, will become Director of Public Affairs and Marketing for Board of Regents for Higher Education.

State Supplemental Benefits: MedFlex and DCAP

The State of Connecticut offers its employees the following optional benefits:

- The Medical Flexible Spending Account Program (MedFlex) provides a tax-free way to pay for out-of-pocket medical care expenses that are not covered by our State health and dental plans. MedFlex allows you to contribute from \$520 to \$2,500 per plan year on a pre-tax basis to be used for eligible medical expenses. **The open enrollment period for MedFlex in 2012 is November 1 through November 30, 2011.** New and continuing MedFlex participants must complete a new election form for the 2012 Plan Year. For more details and enrollment forms, please go [here](#).

- The Dependent Care Assistance Program (DCAP) provides a tax-free way for you to pay for dependent care expenses, allowing you to save money on the cost of these services. DCAP allows you to contribute up to \$5,000 per plan year on a pre-tax basis to be used for eligible dependent care expenses. **The open enrollment period for the 2012 DCAP Plan Year is November 1 through November 30, 2011.** New and continuing DCAP participants must complete a new election form for the 2012 Plan Year. Additional details and enrollment forms can be found [here](#).

CSU-AAUP Member Benefit: The New AdjunctNation.Com

[AdjunctNation.com](#) offers the same writing: news, reviews, interviews, profiles plus great insights from our bloggers who post daily. Since 1992 Adjunct Advocate, Inc. has served the professional needs of the nation's non-tenured faculty. CSU-AAUP has purchased a site pass for our members. CSU-AAUP members should contact your local AAUP office to obtain the login information.

Additionally, until November 24, the [Part-Time Press](#) is offering a 20% discount any book purchase. The Part-Time Press serves the professional development needs of the nation's non-tenured faculty.