

AFT Presentation to the Board of Trustees, Welcoming New Trustees, June 6, 2013

My name is Dr. John Burghduff and I am speaking on behalf of the American Federation of Teachers.

We would like to take this opportunity to welcome new trustees Dr. Kyle Scott and Dr. Ron Trowbridge. We hope your service to the college will be a rewarding experience. We believe that you will find that the strength of this institution lies in an incredibly gifted faculty and a dedicated staff who care deeply for our students.

We want to especially invite you and all of the members of the Board to visit our campuses, not just for major ceremonies, but to get to meet the students and employees that you represent. We believe you will be inspired and that this will give you the best understanding of the Lone Star College we love.

We, in the American Federation of Teachers, would also like to introduce ourselves. Membership in the AFT is completely voluntary and we have grown to a large and robust organization over our 30 plus year history. Our members include faculty, staff and entry level administrators, both full time and part time employees representing all disciplines, all departments and all campuses. For some of our members, notably adjunct faculty and deans, there is no other organization on campus to represent their concerns. All of us have joined the organization because of our profound concern for Lone Star College and you will find that we work hard to help our college reach its full potential.

My job is to serve as spokesman for the concerns of our members and you will be seeing me every month. Our president, Alan Hall, and several of our other members will be here with me as well. Currently there are a number of issues that concern us that we have been advocating for both in front of the Board and with the administration. One concern is the college's employee grievance and appeals process which, uniquely among Texas community colleges, gives fewer rights to noncontractual employees. Another concern is the unwarranted dismissal of one fulltime faculty member and the reassignment of another at Montgomery College. Other examples include lagging salaries, particularly for employees at the lower end of the pay scale including adjunct faculty, and campus security in the wake of brutal attacks on two campuses this spring. We advocate for these issues on behalf of all employees whether they are members of AFT or not.

We believe that faculty and staff serve students most effectively when they are convinced that their administration values and supports them. We have constructive ideas about these and other concerns and we invite each of you to meet with us through our executive board and through our rank and file members. Welcome again, Drs. Scott and Trowbridge and greetings to all the members of the Board. Together we can provide a path for students to achieve their dreams in a work environment that cultivates honor, respect, integrity and trust.