



CALL FOR PROPOSALS

AFT Mini-Conference: Community in Action!

Friday, April 10, 9:00 – 3:00

I have seen that in any great undertaking it is not enough for a man to depend simply upon himself. *Isna la Wicasa (Teton Sioux, Pine Ridge)*

At all times, but especially in our current time, community is crucial to improving, building and sustaining institutions that serve our students, our colleagues, and ourselves. Research shows that creating inclusive spaces with diverse perspectives and experiences increases successful outcomes. AFT believes our strength and success is the result of each of us collectively creating and sustaining our community.

The goal of this mini-conference is to give AFT members a chance to connect and learn from one other. You'll have the chance to share experiences in your areas, disciplines and departments, dig into questions about good practices, and create connections with colleagues across service areas, departments, campuses and districts. AFT invites you to submit a proposal and share your stories of how community is built, sustained and grown!

What we're looking for:

- Diverse topics

The aim of this mini-conference is to share our experiences and learn together. We have four different tracks:

- AFT Community in Action
 - Did you participate in any of AFT's classes or programs like M&M, Leadership 101, or the Intern program? We invite you to put together a panel and share what you've learned!
- Classroom Community in Action
 - Have you changed your classroom practices, revamped course content, or created a new Canvas shell? Please submit a proposal

and share how that has created community in your digital or face-to-face classrooms!

- Campus Community in Action
 - This track is specifically designed for classified professionals to share the work they are doing in their areas. Is your Promise program, or Puente program creating a community for students? Share that with us!
- Research and Social Community in Action
 - Did you take a sabbatical in the past two years? Are you doing research in your discipline? Do you participate in community building in your life outside your campus? We want you to include us in your passion and tell us about it!
- Practicality and positivity

We prefer presentations focused on experience and experimentation over theory. Please have the presentations focus on why, what, and how. Why did you embark on your project, what did you discover, and how has it built, changed or sustained community – in your classroom, in your area of service, and/or your community outside of your campus!

- Audience awareness

When writing your proposal, remember that you're going to be talking to AFT members, which include classified professionals, instructional faculty and non-instructional faculty. Your presentation doesn't have to be relevant to all AFT members, but it should be written so that most AFT members could learn something from it.

Who we're looking for:

In short, if you've experienced community through service, teaching or research, then we want to hear from you! Since that includes everyone in the AFT community, here are some helpful and concrete points of what we're seeking:

- Diverse group of presenters/panelists

We invite talks from first-time presenters and seasoned speakers. Whatever your background or experience, this mini-conference is a platform for YOU to share what you're doing in your departments, what you've tried in the classroom, how you're building community, and what research you're doing. We want to highlight the big and small efforts that YOU make, and we welcome presenters and panels that mirror our campus communities.

- Mix of roles and perspectives

Presentations or panels from classified professionals, NANCE's, instructional faculty (part-time and full-time), and non-instructional faculty are all encouraged. The work of classified professionals and NANCE's can provide perspective for faculty. A Canvas course shell that was rebuilt with a focus on building community can provide insight to staff in an administrator's office. We learn from and build community with each other!

Not sure about speaking?

Please don't fret about whether we will accept your proposal, just submit it! And if public speaking isn't your thing and it gives you hives just thinking about standing up in front of a room, how about getting some of your colleagues together and forming a panel to talk about the how you've built or sustained community in your classroom, your office, your area?

The proposal is a simple paragraph that describes the presentation or panel. Please be sure to focus on the theme!

Presentation format

Presentations will be scheduled in 55-minute blocks. Solo presentations will have 15 minutes and will be grouped together with two other presenters. Each block will have 10 minutes Q&A. Panel presentations will have 40 minutes followed by a 15 minute Q&A.

Questions?

If you have any questions, please email aftprofdev@outlook.com

Submit your proposal [HERE!](#) Or scan QR Code



The **deadline for submitting proposals is 5:00 pm on Friday, March 13, 2026.** Acceptance notifications and presenter details will be sent out by noon on Friday, March 20, 2026