

Jeanette Jeneault, Writing, Syracuse University

Candidate Biography

For the past 22 years I have been a Professional Writing Instructor in The Writing Program at Syracuse University teaching both lower and upper division classes. Recently, I was re-elected to my third term as the contingent faculty union president of Adjuncts United a NYSUT/AFT affiliate and am a member of the local AAUP advocacy chapter and the University Senate. I have also worked for Johns Hopkins University's Center for Talented Youth, SUNY Cortland, and Onondaga Community College. I often conduct workshops on academic writing and research for graduate students, and have edited books, dissertations, and articles. During my years at Syracuse University I have developed two courses---the course that creates the department's literary anthology, and our first online class Writing in the Workplace. My research interests have focused on faculty activism, writing across the curriculum, distance learning, tutoring methodology especially in the areas of TESOL and distance tutoring, online gaming communities, digital literacy, and aestheticism. In addition I have worked as a journalist (both photo and newspaper/magazine), publish poetry and short fiction, as well as authored and produced two children's plays. I am the mother of three children, two in high school, and one a junior in college. In my community I have volunteered as a costume designer for youth theater, served on a community board, written grants, edited an

organizational newsletter, and coached lacrosse, mostly on the junior high level, for six years, including two regular seasons for my local school district.

Candidate Statement

I have spent the past 20 years as a faculty activist. As a faculty member serving contingently at both public and private institutions for the past 25 years, I have learned what is at stake in academia whether for those in the tenure tracks, professional ranks or contingents. Higher education has suffered not only budget cuts and attacks on the humanities, but also a gradual transferring of universities and colleges from places of open inquiry without regard for profit to places more like corporations wherein management attempts and often succeeds in overriding academic freedom, including the extent of control faculty have had generally over curriculum and mode of instruction. This erosion in genuine faculty governance and management's blatant usurping of power, as well as the increase in contractual faculty have weakened the academy but not defeated it; however, it is up to us to speak up and take action. Spending the last two years as Vice President of the New York State conference, I have had many opportunities to make a difference through writing and speaking and being relentless when it comes to seeking justice for those in need.

As you can see from my bio I have an eclectic background, but what you may not know yet is that I'm easy to talk to no matter your background, and I try to help those in need however I can. Growing up in a working class, union based family (and the

first person in my family to achieve a college degree) I strongly believe in the importance of service to others and giving back, not for self-aggrandizement, but for the improvements to the greater good, that can be made through persistence, resilience, and hard work. Recognizing the value of the work of the AAUP, I humbly ask you to consider allowing me the opportunity to serve you as a national council member at large, promising to be diligent, open-minded, and fair to all.