

## **Western Michigan University AAUP – CHHS Executive Committee Member**

I am honored to be nominated to represent the College of Health and Human Services on the Executive Committee for the WMU Chapter of the AAUP. During my brief time as a faculty member at WMU, I have come to value the role of the AAUP and to respect the challenging roles of the officers of the organization.

I have returned to west Michigan after spending 20 years in Chicago, arriving for graduate school and making my home there after graduation. For the last 11 years of my time there, I worked for the Chicago Public Schools as a physical therapist and was a member of the teacher's union. After spending my time in positions without union representation prior to this experience, I learned the importance of what the union provides for a workforce. I had firsthand experience with a bitter contract dispute that resulted in a strike, with union members joining together to make a statement about workplace needs and demands. There were concessions made, but issues like caseloads and classroom sizes were addressed in a way that would not have been possible without union representation.

This experience is particularly relevant in the current university environment, with calls for transparency and joint decision making by the faculty with an administration seemingly making unilateral decisions. Given the diverse voices and viewpoints amongst our talented faculty, the need for unity is crucial to strengthen our power as a group. There is also a need to provide a voice for the unique needs of the faculty of CHHS, with the college being separate from the main campus. I believe I have many strengths to bring to the position and am grateful for the opportunity to discuss my qualifications.

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