

VALERIE M. BRAMAN

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Professional Experience

Lecturer/Labor Education Coordinator, Pennsylvania State University, Philadelphia, PA, *August 2016-Present*

- Collaborate with local unions, other institutions of higher education, community organizations, and other labor organizations to develop and deliver relevant, engaging labor education classes and programs.
- Represent Penn State labor education and the School of Labor and Employment Relations at AFL- CIO, local union, and community organization meetings and events.
- Write and revise curricula encompassing labor, economic, social, and political trends and history.
- Consult with international unions and organizations to create and facilitate content-based workshops, strategic planning, and organizational development sessions.
- Teach undergraduate courses in the field of Labor and Employment Relations.
- Promote Penn State labor education through new, print, and traditional media.

Staff Representative/Affiliate Organizer, American Federation of Teachers, Philadelphia, PA, *September 2010- July 2016*

- Provided pedagogical and leadership development supports, feedback, and representation to public, private, and charter school educators.
- Collaborated with diverse administrative and school management teams to support application of collectively bargained agreements and support continued academic growth.
- Lead negotiations and planning of new collectively-bargained and successor agreements at public, private, and charter schools and school districts.
- Wrote, planned, and facilitated ongoing Professional Development, training, and collaborations for individual schools, city- and statewide educator and union activist groups.
- Maintained internal and external communications for AFT Pennsylvania, including newsletters, website, email programs, canvassing, Facebook, Twitter, and phone banking.
- Advised the President of AFT PA on educational issues and best practices in professional development, teacher development and evaluation, and school-related legislation

Instructional Reform Facilitator, Kensington CAPA High School, Philadelphia, PA, *July 2009-August 2010*

- Facilitated instructional program, fostering growth in student achievement through support to teachers in the form of co-teaching, demonstration teaching, and coaching and feedback sessions, as well as facilitation of Professional Learning Community meetings.
- Designed and facilitated collaborative, job-embedded, standards-based professional development for multiplex schools based upon staff needs.
- Assisted the Principal, School Improvement, and Content Leadership teams in using team and whole school learning time effectively: identifying and providing instructional resources; analyzing school and student achievement data and addressing identified needs; aligning curriculum and instruction to meet the needs of all learners; planning and assessing school improvement initiatives.

Bilingual English Teacher, Kensington High School/Kensington CAPA High School, *February 2003-July 2009*

- Courses taught include: English I, II, III, and IIIR; Summer School English I and II; Strategic Reading; Advanced Composition; AP English Literature; Journalism; Playwriting; Creative Writing; Character Education; and Theatre.
- Successfully executed multiple roles and accomplishments at Kensington HS/Kensington CAPA HS: Member, Leadership team, 2004-2010; Member, Building Committee, 2003-2005; PFT Building Representative, 2005-2010; Member, Site-Based Selection Committee; Member, Safety Team; Member, planning team for new Kensington CAPA.
- Led professional development on: effective classroom management; testing preparation and procedure; lesson planning; arts integration into the core curriculum; use of student portfolios for authentic assessment; using constructed responses as teaching tools; and literacy development.
- Collaborated with local arts and social action organizations to research, write, and implement curriculum and learning opportunities for students, including revisions to a secondary character education curriculum, student-led original play readings, and project-based service learning activities to improve school climate and culture.
- Co-facilitated classroom workshops on racism, stereotyping, anger management, goal-setting, and healthcare.
- Produced, participated in, and directed student theatrical and musical performances, including the annual Kensington CAPA Arts Fiesta and the Philadelphia Young Playwrights Mini-Festival.
- Leadership and Co-Curricular duties included: School Leadership Team Member; Yearbook Advisor; Testing Coordinator; AP Coordinator; Service Learning Liaison; Senior Class Sponsor; Cooperating Teacher; Member of School-wide Positive Behavior Systems Committee; Liaison to Arts Programs; Faculty Liaison to City Year.

Education Volunteer, WorldTeach, Guayabo Abajo, Costa Rica, *2002-2003*

- Taught English as a Foreign Language and Cultural Studies to first through sixth graders in a small, rural, farming community.
- First English-speaking member of the Guayabo Abajo Junta de Educacion (local school board).
- Designed, created, and implemented curricula and evaluations for students.
- Created and taught adult evening English courses in the community.
- Initiated a women's exercise and nutrition group.

Education and Certifications

- Certificate in Labor Studies, Pennsylvania State University and PA AFL-CIO Labor Leadership Institute, June, 2015
- Master of Science in Education Administration, (GPA 4.0), Gwynedd Mercy University, Gwynedd Valley, PA, January 2014
- Certification in Secondary English Education, (GPA 4.0), Arcadia University, Glenside, PA, August 2008
- Bachelor of Arts, Literatures in English, Concentration: Medieval Literature, *Magna Cum Laude*, Brown University, Providence, RI, May 2001

Certifications (Commonwealth of PA)

- Principal K-12, March 2014
- Secondary English, Instructional II Certificate March, 2014; Instructional I August 2006
- College Board AP Teacher Certification: English Language and Composition, June 2006
- College Board AP Teacher Certification: English Literature and Composition, August 2005

Writing and Publications

- “Trump’s plan to arm teachers like me makes no sense for safety in schools,” NBC Think, February 22, 2018
- “Yelp for Teachers is a Terrible Idea,” The Guardian, March 27, 2015
- “The Real Victims of Tom Corbett’s Move to Screw Over Teachers will be the Children of Philadelphia,” The Guardian, October 8, 2014
- “Yes I’m a Teacher, No, I am not Going to Destroy Society and your Children,” The Guardian, August 12, 2014
- “Sustaining your Professional Development Program,” AFT Local Site Coordinators Summer Institute, July 2014
- “Differentiating Instruction,” Professional Development Facilitator’s Guide and Participant Handbook, AFT Strategies for Student Success, June, 2011

Honors, Leadership and Associations

- Vice President for Communications, Philadelphia CLUW: March, 2019-present
- Participant, Glass Leadership Institute, ADL of Philadelphia: 2017-2018
- Member, East Falls Community Council: June, 2016-present
- Board Member, Philadelphia Jewish Labor Committee: 2015-present
- Vice President for Philadelphia, AFT PA Executive Council: 2008-2011
- Recipient, Lindback Award for Distinguished Teaching, April 2008
- Recipient, Moccasin Award for Outstanding Service to School Community, City Year Philadelphia, June 2006
- ETS Recognition of Excellence: English Language, Literature, and Composition Content Knowledge Praxis, November 2004
- Member, Phi Beta Kappa, May, 2001
- Member, Association for Supervision and Curriculum Development, 2003-present
- Member, National Council of Teachers of English, 2003-present
- Member, Literary Committee, Philadelphia Young Playwrights, 2004-present
- Member, Coalition of Labor Union Women, 2010-present
- Member, United Association for Labor Education, September, 2017-present
- Alumnus, Hugh O’Brien Youth Foundation