

# VALERIE M. BRAMAN

## *Professional Experience*

### **Assistant Clinical Professor/Labor Education Coordinator**, Penn State University, State College, 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 and graduate courses in the field of Labor and Employment Relations.
- Promote Penn State labor education through new, print, and traditional media.
- Represent College of the Liberal Arts as a Faculty Senator in all curricular, shared governance, and related matters.
- Serve on the Faculty Rights and Responsibilities committee of the University to investigate, mediate, and recommend resolution of disputes between faculty and administration related to academic freedom, procedural fairness, or professional ethics.

### **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 2006
- 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***

- Board Member, United Association for Labor Education, June, 2023-present
- Secretary, Virtual LERA chapter, 2023-present
- Board Chair, Philadelphia Jobs with Justice: 2019-present
- Philadelphia CLUW: Vice President for Communications, March, 2019-March 2021; Recording Secretary, March 2021-present
- Participant, Glass Leadership Institute, ADL of Philadelphia: 2017-2018
- Member, East Falls Community Council: June, 2016-present
- Board Member, Philadelphia Jewish Labor Committee: 2015-2020
- 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, 2004-2020
- Member, Coalition of Labor Union Women, 2010-present
- Member, United Association for Labor Education, September 2017-present
- Member, Labor and Employment Relations Association, 2020-present
- Alumnus, Hugh O’Brien Youth Foundation