

Candidate Statement for Eric Lohman, PhD

AFT-Wisconsin Board: Secretary Position

My name is Eric Lohman, and I'm running for the position of AFT-W Board Secretary. I'm an associate lecturer in Journalism, Advertising, and Media Studies at UW-Milwaukee, where I teach about the intersections of gender, race, and class in the media. I've served as VP of communications for the Public Service Alliance of Canada, local 610, a union of teaching assistants and post-docs at the University of Western Ontario. I was VP of communications and external affairs for the Society of Graduate Students at that same university, and on the executive board of the Canadian Federation of Students. I also advised the University of Western Ontario Faculty Association on adjunct-related issues during their bargaining campaign. Most of my extensive experience organizing workers and running campaigns is in predominantly higher education environments.

My organizing experience taught me that if union leadership empowers the workers on the ground to organize around issues they are experiencing, and if leadership provides support, material resources, and solidarity to their struggles, then workers on the ground can win. I'm running for this position because, like many of you, I want to see our union embrace this kind of organizing. Electing me secretary will help us turn the page on the last decade and start fresh with a renewed labor movement in Wisconsin that is bold, aggressive, and unapologetically committed to fighting for a better world. Focusing on electoral politics and member services is a failed strategy, and if we intend to respond to the coming challenges, which are unlike anything humans have seen before, then we need to work collectively, across sectors and locals. We can blame Scott Walker and ACT-10 for the state of the labor movement in 2011, but in 2021, we have no one to blame but ourselves. Let's get to work!