

2021 NOMINATION FOR OFFICE



Name Jon Shelton
Address/City/State/Zip 1045 S. Webster Ave.
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Work phone 920 965 2161 Home phone 920 977 04911
Name of Local VW 65-United
Local # 6511 How long a member of the union 7 years

Office desired (circle one):

- | | | |
|---|----------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| President | PK-12 Vice President | State Employees Vice President |
| Secretary | WTCS Vice President | PSRP Vice President |
| Treasurer | <u>University Vice President</u> | Graduate Employees Vice President |
| Regional Vice President (3 - Northern, Eastern, West/Central) | | Retiree Council Vice President |

Positions held in local Vice President, organizing Committee chair

Activities with AFL-CIO affiliates: Local/State/National High Level Ed VP, AFTW - 2015 - present

Political activities Brown County Democrats, AFTW Cope

Educational background Ph.D. University of Maryland (2013)

Profession Professor, WI - Green Bay

Location Green Bay, WI

Other activities and qualifications _____

This is to certify that the above-named candidate has been nominated for office in accordance with the Constitution of AFT-Wisconsin. Please indicate the procedure used in nominating the candidate on page two of this form.

Candidates may submit a position paper of no more than 300 words on why he/she is seeking a position on the AFT-Wisconsin Executive Board to be posted on the AFT-Wisconsin website. This must be submitted electronically to Kathy Kreul at kreul@aft-wisconsin.org no later than Sunday, September 19, 2021.

As a candidate for office in AFT-Wisconsin, I will not engage in name calling, whisper campaigns, slander, libel or other inappropriate tactics. I will conduct a clean campaign that operates in a dignified and respectable manner that befits our union. I will instruct my supporters that they should do the same.

Signature [Handwritten Signature] Date: 8/30/2021

I'm thrilled to be running for re-election as Vice President for Higher Education of AFT-Wisconsin. I've been a member of my local, UWGB-United (6511), since I came to the state in 2013. The next year I was elected to serve on my local executive council and in 2015, my first term on the executive board of AFT-W. As a scholar who studies the history of labor and working-class people, unions, public education, and American politics, my academic perspective deeply intersects with my work as an organizer and activist.

During my time on the Executive Board of AFT-W, I'm so proud of what we've been able to accomplish. Building from President Kim Kohlhaas's vision to organize member-driven locals in the wake of Act 10, our higher ed locals have been hard at work. First, led by Local 223 President Chad Goldberg, we worked together to coordinate a historic wave of no-confidence votes in UW System President Ray Cross and the Walker-appointed Board of Regents in 2016. The next year we went on the offensive, organizing the state-wide "Fund the Freeze" campaign which connected our working conditions to the learning conditions of our students by pushing to fully fund the tuition freeze. It is not an accident that Superintendent Evers ran on the slogan as part of his campaign platform in 2018 and has proposed to fund it in both of his budget proposals as our Governor.

As Vice President, I'm also delighted to have worked with our excellent professional staff to provide support as members organized two new higher ed locals—at UW-Whitewater and UW-Oshkosh. In concert with a revitalized local at UW-Stout, AFT-W now has dynamic locals at more campuses than ever, deepening our ability to protect and extend the Wisconsin Idea.

Finally, I'm proud to have helped lead the effort through AFT-W to make it easier for UW system faculty and staff navigate the exigency of COVID-19 and to develop an ongoing relationship with individual members of the board of regents on behalf of our union. Those relationships paid off in the battle to prevent the disastrous possibility of hiring Jim Johnsen as UW system president in the summer of 2020. The new search committee, to which I've been appointed by search chair Karen Walsh, now features three faculty members from the UW system, and because of our work, I can elevate our concerns into the search process.

I have put in a good deal of work to ensure our members' concerns make it into the public arena, too: I've been quoted in numerous articles—from WPR to the Milwaukee Journal Sentinel—on a variety of workplace issues, and Local 6504 member Neil Kraus and I just [published a widely-circulated article arguing that faculty and staff must recommit ourselves to the Wisconsin Idea.](#)

We still have a lot of work ahead of us. First and foremost, our campuses still do not come close to representing the diversity of our state. I've already sought to bring the work I do locally—I serve on the board of COMSA, a Somali refugee community services organization in Green Bay as well as Vice-Chair of our city's first ever Equal Rights Commission—into my work in AFT-W, but there is much more to do.

Further, the COVID crisis is not nearly over, faculty and staff workload has reached a critical point on virtually every campus, and we must continue to fight for a fully funded higher education system. But we've built a good deal of power on our campuses, and in our state, over the past few years and I'm excited about continuing this work as Vice President for Higher Education. Solidarity!