



Coalition on the
Academic Workforce

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Access the CAW survey at:
www.academicworkforce.org.

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Coalition on the Academic Workforce To Survey Contingent Faculty and Staff

***First National Survey To Examine Compensation and Working Conditions at the
Institutional and Course Levels***

On Sept. 27, the Coalition on the Academic Workforce will begin a comprehensive survey of working conditions for contingent faculty and staff. CAW invites all members of the contingent academic workforce in U.S. colleges and universities to participate in this survey.

WHAT: Survey of Contingent Faculty Members and Instructors

WHERE: The survey can be accessed from the CAW website at:
www.academicworkforce.org.

WHEN: The survey is open from Sept. 27 until Nov. 30, 2010.

WHO: The survey is open to *all* instructional and research staff members employed off the tenure track, including faculty members employed as full- or part-time, graduate students (remunerated as teaching assistants or employed in other roles) as well as researchers and postdoctoral fellows.

“Although the majority of U.S. faculty are now off the tenure track, information about their working conditions is sorely lacking. Most of the limited data that exist on the working conditions of the contingent academic workforce are too generic to be of much use in really understanding how these professionals are being compensated and treated,” notes Robert Townsend, Assistant Director of Research and Publications for the American Historical Association. “This survey aims to fill that gap by looking at salaries, benefits, course assignments and general working conditions at the institutional level.”

“We hope to get a large and diverse response to this survey, from which we can develop a rich set of useful data” said Craig Smith, Deputy Director of higher education at the American Federation of Teachers. “A vibrant debate about our higher education system is going on in this country. Unfortunately, that debate often overlooks what we in CAW believe to be perhaps the most significant issue: the continuing lack of investment in the faculty and staff responsible for carrying out the core missions of our institutions.”

As outlined in a February 2010 CAW issue brief, “[One Faculty Serving All Students](#),” nearly three-quarters of the instructional staff in higher education are now serving contingently. Despite being trained professionals responsible for a significant proportion of undergraduate education, many of these workers report earning very low wages, and having no benefits and little access to any type of career ladder. This survey seeks to capture data to provide, for the first time, a detailed national report on the extent to which institutions of higher education are relying on a low-paid contingent workforce.

CAW will promote the survey through its membership organizations and other means. Once the data are collected and analyzed, CAW will be even better equipped to advocate for appropriate compensation and working conditions for those who hold contingent academic positions.

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The Coalition on the Academic Workforce is a group of higher education associations, disciplinary associations and faculty organizations committed to working on the issues associated with the deterioration of faculty working conditions and the impact of this trend on the success of college and university students in the United States. A complete list of CAW members and the CAW issue brief “One Faculty Serving All Students” are available at: www.academicworkforce.org.

CAW Member Organizations

American Academy of Religion	College Art Association
American Anthropological Association	Community College Humanities Association
American Association of University Professors	Conference on College Composition and Communication
American Federation of Teachers	Linguistic Society of America
American Historical Association	Modern Language Association
American Philological Association	National Council of Teachers of English
American Philosophical Association	National Education Association
American Political Science Association	Organization of American Historians
American Sociological Association	Society of Biblical Literature
American Studies Association	Society for Cinema and Media Studies
Association of American Colleges and Universities	Teachers of English to Speakers of Other Languages, Inc.