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## Sharon Wu

### AFT Citation for Service

Our Union, AFT Local 1650, has not achieved and preserved the livelihoods and professional lives of HFC faculty simply because of its Officers and Negotiating Teams. It has done so, despite great internal and external challenges, particularly over the last 10 years, because of the resolve of its members and the support members have given the Union's leadership.

In that light, Local 1650 has a longstanding tradition of recognizing, upon their retirement, members who have made significant contributions to the Union and its members. Today, we recognize Sharon Wu.

Sharon has served as Local 1650 Area Representative for the Allied Health Area of the College; provided invaluable insights on Local 1650's Insurance Committee, one of our most important and busy committees; served as delegate at AFT Higher Education Conferences; and supported 1650's political and community outreach efforts – all in addition to her teaching and Program Chair responsibilities.

Sharon, like all Area Representatives, kept the 1650 leadership informed of faculty concerns – and kept faculty informed of Union initiatives and their rationale.

Sharon kept faculty informed about how political and community activism empower our Union and, in turn, empower HFC faculty and the College itself. As is the case with all Area Representatives, she knows that each HFC faculty member is a public employee whose professional life and livelihood are determined by the decisions of

elected politicians at the local, State, and federal levels. At the local level, there have been attacks on this Union and its contract, on faculty governance, and on individual faculty expression of the opinion by the last two HFC Presidents – during the “Lost Decade” at HFC. There have been State intrusions into our contract, such as the State hard cap insurance legislation and its cost shift of insurance premiums to faculty – as well as severe cuts in State funding resulting in tuition increases, student debt, and the need for local tax support. At the federal level, there are declines in Pell Grants, impacting student access and levels of completion, and in Perkins Grants, impacting career programs; as well as the privatization of student loans and, in turn, a dramatic increase in student debt.

Sharon recognizes, and always recognized, the need for political funds and political volunteers. Like all 1650 Area Representatives, she has spent countless, but much appreciated, hours in securing political action funds – as well as phone bank, neighborhood walk, and poll work volunteers.

In light of all these efforts in support of our Union and our professional standing, Local 1650 is indebted to Sharon – and presents Sharon with the “American Federation Citation for Service,” which reads:

*“The men and women who have worked to build the American Federation of Teachers constitute the Union’s proudest heritage.*

*This Citation is awarded to Sharon Wu in appreciation of meritorious service to the cause of teacher unionism.”*

John McDonald, President  
HFCC-FT, AFT 1650  
AFT Vice-president  
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