

David Kenkel



I have been on the IPC committee for the last term and would greatly value the opportunity to continue for another term.

I am currently part of the TEU negotiating team for Unitec's collective agreement and have been active in assisting a developing constructive relationship with TEC and the new executive leadership at Unitec during a time of great challenge.

A bit about me: I am of mixed European ancestry, born and raised in West Auckland on the land of Te Kawerau-a-Maki and pleased to still be resident close to where I grew up and where many of my extended family still live. I live with my partner Annette and we are blessed with 2 children who are now 28 and 21. My family has been in the west of Auckland since 1949 when my Father moved to a West Auckland gorse paddock that's since become a suburb. I'm committed to teaching and working in my local community and I am a lecturer in Social Work and Community Development in the Department of Social Practice at Unitec Auckland - Waitakere Campus. I'm very involved in my local community – including being the Chair of Community Waitakere – an agency that advocates for social cohesion and connection.

I have a chequered work history including nursing, work in residential mental health support work, community work, counselling, family therapy, family violence prevention and group facilitation. I've also been a gib stopper and plasterer and run a cafe.

Since 2000 –I've taught social practice / social work, and worked as a political and community advocate with UNICEF and the office of the Children's Commissioner to further children's rights, well-being and status in society.

In line with my families abiding fascination with fairness, politics, gender, culture and the BIG picture, in 2006 I completed a Masters in Social Policy that looked at the effect on young people of neo-liberal policies in education. Having left school at 15 doing a Masters was a big leap for me. Hence, I understand the challenge of picking up study as an adult and I now work closely with adult students commencing study for the first time. I am part-way through a Phd with an accent on sustainability and people's relationship with place.

I've been a TEU member since joining Unitec and increasingly active over the last 6 years. My work for TEU aligns with the work I do in the community - a continuous struggle against the sorts of policies that place profit before people and efficiency before social well-being. It has become very

clear at Unitec that if we are to make headway against policies that do harm to staff and students we need to talk together, stand together and take action together. It is apparent to me that education is under threat and hence a TEU that is strong, passionate and effective is more needed than ever. I am very pleased to have an opportunity to put my name forward to continue in the broader creative dialogue of solidarity.