

Hello,

My name is Jeff Terry, and I am a professor in the Department of Physics at Illinois Tech. My work in energy research has shown me that public policy is intertwined with all facets of societal progress. Policy drives technology, and technology shapes policy. I am excited to serve as interim chair of the Department of Social Sciences to provide students with new, interdisciplinary opportunities at the sometimes-challenging boundaries where policy meets technology.

I would like to take this opportunity to welcome you to campus for the fall 2020 semester, whether you be here in person, virtual, or in combination. I realize that we gather together under what can only be described as challenging circumstances in tumultuous times. These circumstances leave us with a great amount of uncertainty. However, we will continue to provide the high quality of instruction that is expected at Illinois Tech no matter what happens during the coming semester.

These unusual circumstances are also an opportunity. We are in one of the most vibrant and dynamic cities in the world. We have the opportunity to work with K–12 students in underprivileged areas, giving them access to educational experiences that have the potential to change their lives. Challenging times require creative minds. Here at Illinois Tech, we will work to hone your tools so you can go out and change the future.

We are taking this opportunity to launch new initiatives and partnerships around the university. We are instituting a new seminar series called Great Problems, Great Minds. We will be inviting some of the finest thought leaders around the country to discuss what they think are the biggest problems facing society today and potential solutions. These seminars will be held every Tuesday from 12:40–1:40 p.m. CST. We are looking to involve students from all disciplines around campus to work together to solve these problems in the spirit of the Interprofessional Projects (IPRO) Program, which Illinois Tech has pioneered.

I look forward to working with you to make sure that the department is able to give you the educational opportunities that best serve your needs for your future. One of my goals as interim chair is to explore experiential learning and other research opportunities for our students.

Work hard and stay safe. Make good decisions.

Thank you,

Jeff

Jeff Terry  
Interim Chair, Social Sciences