Modern Language Association **MLA**

Dear Colleague:

The Modern Language Association (MLA) has established a grant program to assist MLA members who are part-time or contingent non-tenure-track faculty members with expenses incurred in attending the MLA's annual convention, to be held this year in San Francisco from 27 to 30 December. Applicants for MLA funds are required to request matching funds from their institutions. I write to second your faculty member's request for funding and to ask that you honor your faculty member's request to the fullest extent possible. There are many good reasons to do so.

Part-time and contingent non-tenure-track faculty members play an important role in sustaining language, literature, and writing programs. Institutions that employ these faculty members will benefit directly by providing them with professional development opportunities, including support for participation in professional conferences. Faculty members who receive this kind of support will bring what they have learned back to their classrooms, and their engagement with the wider profession will pay further dividends to their home departments and institutions.

The MLA's program provides travel grants of $300 to successful applicants. To be eligible to receive MLA funds, applicants must furnish their institution's written response, whether positive or negative, to their request for matching funds. The allocation of matching funds is one small step that your institution can take toward creating significantly better working conditions for your part-time and contingent non-tenure-track faculty members—a step that will enhance your institution's standing in the educational community.

I thank you for your consideration. Should you have any questions regarding the MLA's grant program, please contact Annie Reiser at 646 576-5141 or awards@mla.org.

Sincerely,

Rosemary G. Feal

Rosemary G. Feal
Executive Director