

April 14, 2015

Members of the House Committee on Business & Labor,

In 2004, I became aware of the unjust manner in which part-time faculty and tutors are treated if their summer term assignments are cut or eliminated.

At that time, I was contacted by a part-time instructor who taught at both PCC and MHCC. Her normal summer teaching assignment was four classes, but this year it was cut to two. This was a staggering blow to her finances, and she almost lost her house because of it. Thankfully, she was able to borrow money from family and friends to get through the summer.

This instructor had taught at both institutions for several years, and she normally taught all four terms. Given her dire need, she decided to apply for unemployment compensation. She was denied. She appealed; a hearing was set; and she was denied again.

Last summer, a part-time instructor who normally teaches summer term chose not to apply for unemployment because she knew that the chances of getting it were slim-to-none. Instead, several of the MHCC employees pulled together donations so that she'd have some monies to help her through the summer.

Both of these examples speak to the unfair situation that currently exists. Our part-time faculty and tutors at Oregon's community colleges shouldn't be mistreated because of a federal law that was intended to keep K-12 employees from applying for unemployment during the summer months.

It's my understanding HB3508 would address this situation, and I ask for your support of this bill.

Sincerely,

Marilyn Pitts

Marilyn Pitts
President, MHCC Part-time Faculty & Tutor Association