

Hello! I am Traci Hodgson and I teach U.S. History and Women's Studies at Chemeketa Community College in Salem, Oregon. I am also president of the Chemeketa Faculty Association and secretary of the Oregon Education Association Community College Council.

As faculty, we are on the front lines of education. Professor Larry Levine's tragic death at Umpqua Community College was a brutal awakening that we are on the front lines in other ways too.

Community college facilities are woefully out of date. The tragic events of Umpqua CC were a brutal reminder of that fact. Last fall, faculty, staff and students looked around their own campuses and realized that a similar tragedy could easily unfold where they work and learn. And they felt vulnerable and afraid.

Most campuses lack basic safety mechanisms like modern door locks. Some rooms lock only by key FROM THE OUTSIDE. Campuses lack basic modern security features, have inadequate lighting and visibility, and have outdated designs.

My college, Chemeketa, has heavily invested in campus security for years. All classrooms lock from the inside. All classrooms have phones that facilitate communication and also serve as public speakers to announce emergency events. Reader boards in public areas communicate warnings to the hearing impaired. A robust text alert system allows all students and staff to quickly learn of a threat.

All of these safety features have provided a greater sense of safety amongst students and faculty at Chemeketa. We can see in the classrooms every day security measures meant to keep us as safe as possible. I wish all students and faculty at all community colleges in the state could feel this sense of security.

On behalf of faculty and the students we serve, we ask that you begin taking the steps now to modernize all our campuses so students can come to learn with the confidence that for the time that they are on our campuses, they are safe to pursue their dreams.