

I am a 46 year old female. I live in Douglas County Oregon where finding a full time, living wage job with benefits and a retirement plan is almost impossible. I went back to college at the age of 39 because I wanted a better life. While attending UCC I took advantage of a work study program and began working in the Enrollment Services office for our Academic Scheduler. I fell in love with the job and have since been a 19 hour or less, a 20 + hour and then a full time staff member of that office. I thought I had found my forever job with people that I admire because of their desire to help students from all walks of life, regardless of age.

I am proud to say that I completed my Associate of Arts Oregon Transfer degree and a Medical Billing and Coding certificate as part of the UCC Class of 2013. I am the first person in my immediate family to graduate college.

On October 1<sup>st</sup>. I and several co-workers were asked to help out at the fairgrounds where the buses were to be bringing everyone to meet up with family members after the tragedy that occurred on our campus. I personally stepped onto every bus that arrived, gave instructions to those arriving, on where to find their families or where to get help. I will never, ever forget that day. After taking the weekend off I went back to work to help our students, community members and staff (while others took extended time off). I didn't take any time off. I stepped up for our students on the weeks, months and year that has followed. I was not prepared for what was to come but I showed up every day and found my way, so I could be there for those that needed me more, then I needed to be at home.

On Friday March 31, 2017 my position (along with three part-time staff members) at the college was deemed "non-critical" due to lack of state funding and low enrollment. On the first week of each term I personally help an average of 100 students each day of that week. That does not include the others that help out at the front counter or the people that call on the phone needing assistance or the community education registrations that we take care of. Again, these are just the positions lost out of my office.

Out of the Enrollment Services office we lost three part-time staff members and my full time position. That is everyone that worked our front counter helping our students with registrations or answering questions. The original list shows 10 classified positions but that isn't even the beginning of the scope of loss of positions, as it doesn't show all the part-time people lost. I worked so hard to find a job I loved and would be my forever job. In my time in the Enrollment Services office I have learned how to step in for many other positions when needed. I am currently a member of the UCC Leadership class of 2016/2017, I have served on the Classified Union bargaining team and until I received the news of my job ending, I served as the OEA/NEA Liaison for our union leadership board.

My last day, at my beloved Umpqua Community College, will be June 29, 2017. I cannot even begin to see what my life looks like without my job, without the students and others staff that have all become like family. At the time this news came to me I had just put our home on the market three weeks prior, so I could move my mom closer to town (she is 76), we live too far out in the country for her safety. What do I do now? How do I pay my bills? I cannot move my

mother out of Douglas County at 76 to a new environment. Her friends, doctors and everything that is familiar is here. I am completely devastated by all of this turmoil, the tears refuse to stop. I am grieving for all the hard work I have put in to learning as much as I could about our department and college. I am grieving for all the people I will not get to help change their lives, the way I did.

I ask each of you to please consider additional funding for our community colleges. These institutions are more than just a place to learn. For some people they are a lifeline, a place to dream of a different life than they grew up with, a place to come together, a place to grow, a place to become a part of something bigger than yourself. For myself, Umpqua Community College has become my home, as a student and employee since 2010. Please let it continue to be my home away from home. Please do not let the lack of state funding take away the services we offer our students, community and the life I have worked so hard to create.

Thank you.