



April 22, 2021

Members of the Joint Committee on Ways and Means  
Co-Chairs: Senators Johnson and Steiner Hayward and Representative Rayfield  
Co-Vice Chairs: Senator Girod and Representatives Gomberg and Smith  
900 Court St., N.E.  
Salem, OR 97301

Esteemed Co-Chairs, Co-Vice Chairs, and Members of the Joint Committee:

Thank you for your leadership and commitment to listen to the voices of Oregonians.

My name is Adrienne Mitchell, and I serve as President of Lane Community College Education Association, representing the 200 full-time and 375 part-time faculty of Lane Community College. I am speaking today **to urge you to fully fund healthcare for part-time faculty and to fund the community college support fund at \$702M.**

While some part-time faculty at LCC receive employer-provided healthcare benefits, this is not the case in most of the community colleges throughout the state. At the rare colleges that do provide some healthcare benefits, the cost strains already skeletal budgets. Within our community college system in Oregon, the vast majority of faculty members work part-time -- without job security, without pay equity, and without healthcare benefits.<sup>1</sup>

A recent review of part-time faculty salaries by the Oregon Education Association indicates that part-time faculty working half-time at Oregon community colleges earn, on average, **\$16,000 per year**. This amount falls below the threshold for SNAP eligibility for a single person.

These are **poverty wages** necessitating government assistance, creating housing and food insecurity for the very faculty upon whom our institutions rely. Without part-time faculty, colleges would not meet student demand to fulfill the critical workforce development and transfer functions of the community college system.

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<sup>1</sup> As of Fall 2018, a full 70.6% of faculty positions at Oregon's community colleges were part-time according to an analysis of National Center for Education Statistics Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System (IPEDS) <https://nces.ed.gov/ipeds/use-the-data>

Likewise, our students experience food and housing insecurity. A recent Hope Center survey of 8,100 Oregon community colleges students found that **41%** of respondents were food insecure, and **52%** were housing insecure.

Unfortunately, our community colleges remain direly underfunded, leaving both part-time faculty and students alike in precarity.

An investment in community colleges is an investment in Oregon's economic recovery and the people of this great state. Please fund community colleges at \$702M and invest in part-time faculty healthcare.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely and with deep appreciation for your service,  
Adrienne Mitchell

Adrienne Mitchell, M.A., M.Ed.

President, Lane Community College Education Association,

*representing the 375 part-time and 200 full-time faculty of LCC*

Vice President, Oregon Education Association Community College Council

*representing 4,000+ part- and full-time faculty and staff from 18 community college unions in OR*