

Hello, my name is Adam Wickert, and I am an Associate Faculty member at Clackamas Community College. I recently celebrated ten years of being a college instructor, and I have been at CCC for nearly 7 of those years. I teach in two different departments at CCC. I teach writing, college study skills, as well as GED classes.

I love working at CCC. My family has made a home here in Oregon, and every day my students remind me of how great a choice that has been. I work with a very diverse group of students. Some of them are teenagers, while others are old enough to be my grandparents. The students inspire me every day and I would like to believe that I inspire them as well. I'm teaching them real-life skills that translate into economic gains for themselves and their families.

Earlier in my testimony, I noted that I teach in two different departments at CCC. This is a choice that I have made in order to put food on the table for my family, but I'm not going to lie, it makes it hard to come to work when I know that I am making a fraction of what my full-time colleagues are making. I generally teach 20 plus credit hours for most terms. I don't teach classes that come with multiple choice tests and scantron sheets. I mostly teach writing. Each paper takes a significant amount of time to read and to grade. With my current schedule, I'm teaching from 9 or 10 AM until generally 7 or 8 PM during the week. You should see my schedule! I'm managing, but it would be great to be able to have a practical schedule where I can give myself fully to my students as well as my family. They deserve to see me at my best.

This might seem like a contradiction to state, but CCC is a great college to work at and I have very supportive colleagues amongst the full-time faculty. I work for an impressive group of students that deserve the best that I can offer. This is an issue that is well-known at the college. I'm not the only employee that is considered "full-time, part-time". I work full time hours but earn a fraction of what my colleagues earn. The college argues that they do not have the funds to make this happen. I beg that this body make SB 416 a reality in Oregon. With the passage of this bill, the state will begin to make necessary investments in eliminating the wage gaps that unfortunately exist between full-time faculty and adjunct/part-time faculty. This bill will allow me to stress less about putting food on my family's table and focus more of my energy on providing the best education I can to my students.

Thank you!

Adam Wickert