

Submitter: Nick Nash
On Behalf Of:
Committee: Senate Committee On Education
Measure: SB416

Members of the committee, my name is Dr. Nick Nash. I am a part-time philosophy instructor at Blue Mountain Community College in Pendleton Oregon, I am also the only philosophy instructor at Blue Mountain Community College, and the only person with a PhD in philosophy within 50 miles of Pendleton. Without me, either no philosophy would be taught at Blue Mountain, or they would hire someone from outside the area to teach online only classes.

I love what I do—I went to three colleges over 11 years to be able to do it. I have a Master's degree from one of the top terminal MA programs in the country and a PhD from one of the top 3 philosophy department in Canada. I tell my students at the beginning and the end of every quarter that although I do a lot of different things having the opportunity to share philosophy with them is by far my favorite—and it is. Teaching at a college is central to my identity—and I'm really fucking good at it.

I made the mistake last year of figuring out what my hourly wage was for the average amount of time that I put into each class and it came out to around \$20 an hour. This figure doesn't include any extra work I do in service to the college (and there is plenty of this), or any of the time required to develop and update my courses. I work a second job that is flexible enough to work around my teaching schedule but to make everything balance at the end of the month I work a lot.

Recently it has become really clear to me that I can't continue to live like this—but honestly I feel trapped. The only thing that makes sense to give up is teaching but if I do this my rural community college students lose, my community loses, and I lose the thing that I most care about and most enjoy in my professional life.

Please pass Senate Bill 416 and make my pay equitable with my full-time colleagues.