



June 17, 2021

Chancellor Eloy Ortiz Oakley
1102 Q Street, Suite 4400
Sacramento, CA 95811

UNIVERSITY
PROFESSIONAL
AND TECHNICAL
EMPLOYEES

CWA Local 9119
AFL-CIO

■
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Chancellor Ortiz Oakley,

I am writing on behalf of the University Professional and Technical Employees Union. We represent part-time faculty at Butte College, College of the Sequoias, and Mt. San Jacinto College.

It has recently come to our attention that the state legislature is debating a budget item that would allocate \$170 million into our community college system to hire 2,000 additional full-time faculty members. We understand from recent news reports that your office is wary of this proposal.

We wanted to write to make our position clear: California Community Colleges should accept this money and hire additional full-time faculty members, emphasizing converting part time, temporary faculty to tenure track faculty.

As you know, part-time workers comprise approximately 70 percent of the faculty at state community colleges and teach close to 50 percent of the classes offered.

While our members love their jobs, 40 percent of adjunct faculty members in California struggle to cover basic household expenses. Furthermore, nearly 25 percent of the faculty qualify for public assistance.

Our members are professional educators with advanced degrees, and they deserve the chance to advance their careers and earn a living wage. California's students will benefit from the attention of additional teachers.

While we support the state using its surplus to hire additional full-time faculty, we also want it to help part-time faculty. We hope you will support AB 375, which will amend the Education Code to raise the maximum percentage of hours part-time, temporary community college employees may teach from 67% to 85% of full-time hours.

We recognize that not all of our members will qualify or be selected for full-time positions, but they should still have the opportunity to teach enough classes to earn a living wage. Students will benefit from the additional hours our members will be available to them.

AB 375 is currently making its way through the state senate and could use more visible support from your office.

If you have any additional questions, please feel free to contact me at president@upte-cwa.org.

Sincerely,

President
UPTE-CWA 9119