Assemblymember Nancy Skinner

Elihu Harris State Building

1515 Clay Street, Suite 2201

Oakland, CA 94612

February 3, 2014

Dear Assembly member Skinner:

I am writing as a community college professor to ask you to help restore state funding this year for the part-time faculty categorical funds (office hours; medical benefits; and part-time equity). Recent cuts to these programs have hurt our students and faculty. We need your help.

I teach full-time at Contra Costa College where the majority of classes in my department are taught by part-time faculty. Students who take their classes are at a real disadvantage because part-timers are not accessible enough outside of class. Our full-time faculty hold five office hours a week, but part-timers are only offered ½ an office hour for every class they teach (1.5 hours per week maximum). This just isn’t fair to students!

Cuts to the part-time equity fund have had a similar negative effect, since many of our part-timers are so poorly paid that they over-extend themselves by teaching in several districts and the private sector, so they are not able to offer students the level of access and support they deserve.

The over-reliance on part-time teachers and the lack of support they receive weaken our whole community college system. But making changes in the CCC system has become even harder since the State cut the part-time categorical funds.

Please help us restore and expand this funding now that there is money in the budget that help our colleges recover and improve.

Sincerely,

Jeffrey Michels, Ph.D.

English Department Chair

Contra Costa College

Assemblymember Nancy Skinner February 3, 2014

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1515 Clay Street, Suite 2201

Oakland, CA 94612

Dear Assemblymember Skinner:

I am writing as a part-time community college instructor to ask you to help restore state funding this year for the part-time faculty categorical funds (office hours; medical benefits; and part-time equity). Recent cuts to these programs have hurt our students and faculty. We need your help.

I have been teaching part-time for the Contra Costa Community College district for over 30 years (and at various times other local districts and private sector jobs). Many of my friends and colleagues are part-time faculty in the CCCCD and would have similar stories to mine. We are concerned that students are being disadvantaged because they do not have equal access to us outside of the classroom and we are so poorly paid that most of us must work multiple jobs just to make a living thereby not being as accessible to our students.

Full-time faculty members are paid to do 5 hours a week in office time to help students succeed in their instruction. Part-time instructors are only paid to do ½ hour per course they teach up to a maximum of 1.5 hours per week. This is not enough to fully help our students, many of whom are first time college attendees, remedial students or students returning to college after many years being away.

The part-time faculty categorical funds were designed and budgeted by the legislature to acknowledge the current inadequate funding model, and to try and fix the inequities in the system to ensure greater student access and success.

The over-reliance on part-time teachers and the lack of support we receive weaken our whole community college system. But making changes in the CCC has become even harder since the State cut the part-time categorical funds.

Please help us restore and expand this funding now that there is money in the budget that help our colleges recover and improve.

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