Assemblymember Nancy Skinner

Elihu Harris State Building

1515 Clay Street, Suite 2201

Oakland, CA 94612

February 3, 2014

Dear Assemblymember Skinner:

I am writing as a community college professor to ask you to help restore state funding this year for the part-time faculty categoricals (office hours; medical benefits; and the part-time equity fund). 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, 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 at CCC has become even harder since the State cut the part-time categoricals.

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