

Chair Dembrow, Vice-Chair Weber and members of the Senate Committee on Education,

Thank you for this opportunity to speak. My name is Adam Wickert, and I am the Vice President of the CCC Associate Faculty Union. In September, I began working at the CCC Foundation as the Scholarship and Student Success Analyst. Prior to beginning that role, I taught between 23 and 27 credit hours most terms as an associate faculty member at CCC. I did that for nearly 7 years before being hired at the Foundation.

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 helping them build real-life skills that translate into economic gains for themselves and their families.

Since taking on my role at the Foundation, I've been given a gift that most adjunct/associate faculty in Oregon cannot count on: stability. I have a stable job, with a stable monthly income. I have the capacity to be able to experiment in my classes because I'm not teaching 25 credit hours a term to put food on the table. I can actually create space for my students to meet with me outside of class! My colleagues at CCC comment that they can't imagine how I handle the workload between my job at the Foundation and teaching 7 credit hours per term, but they have no idea that I've been training for this for the last 7 years! I can bring my full self to my job because I have time to reflect and time to breathe. Most of my colleagues at CCC do not have that luxury.

I am imploring you to move forward and address this issue. Our students deserve the best. Our colleges deserve us to be at our best. Without your support, I am afraid that we will lose many talented educators. Thank you for your time. I believe in you and I hope that you move forward to address this issue with a new pay equity bill.

Thank you!

Adam Wickert