

# COMMUNITY COLLEGE ASSOCIATION ADVOCATE

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*The official Newspaper of the Community College Association/CTA-NEA*

## Prop. 55 Extension: Protect Our Colleges

**More than \$1.6 billion in funding at stake for CCDs**

By: CCA Advocate Staff

The past year has been especially challenging for higher education, with threats coming from all directions: Chronically underfunded public education needs; politically motivated federal funding cuts; attacks by extremists from outside our communities and even on our boards; and a Federal Administration that detests higher education and appears determined to destroy public education.

These threats are compounded by the sunset in 2030 of Proposition 55, which generated more than \$1.6 billion in funding for community college districts in 2024-25. Without any action, the loss of this funding would be catastrophic for our community colleges and public schools (find out how much your district stands to lose at [cta.org/Prop55Extension](http://cta.org/Prop55Extension)). While 2030 may seem like a long time away, our union family is already working hard to secure that funding permanently, with a signature-gathering campaign underway to qualify an initiative for the November 2026 election and launching a ground game to ensure we win for students of all ages.

**"CCA locals across the state are already gathering signatures and organizing to save this funding – ask a leader in your FA today about how you can help us to victory on Election Day."**

"Qualifying and passing a ballot initiative to permanently extend Prop. 55 funds must be the top priority in every community college district in California," says CCA President Randa Wahbe. "This is an existential threat for our colleges and public schools, which would impact every community. Failure is not an option – our students are counting on us!"

Since 2012, Props. 30 and 55 have generated significant funding through a tax on California's wealthiest (currently, couples earning more than \$700,000). Last year, this meant \$56.1 million for Mt. San Antonio College (Mt. SAC) in Walnut, the loss of which would be devastating, according to Mt. SAC FA President Emily Woolery.

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## PROP. 55 FUNDS AT RISK



### — \$1.6 BILLION FOR COLLEGES

This funding will end in 2030 without a voter-approved extension.

### — TOP 5 COLLEGES IN PROP 55 FUNDING

Los Angeles CCD: \$158 million  
Los Rios CCD: \$75.2 million  
San Diego CCD: \$64.6 million  
Mt. San Antonio CCD: \$56.1 million  
State Center CCD: \$54.1 million

### — OTHER NOTABLE COLLEGE DISTRICTS

North Orange County CCD: \$52.9M  
Riverside CCD: \$52.6M  
Kern CCD: \$42.1M  
College of the Desert CCD: \$16.2M  
College of the Siskiyous CCD: \$2.7M

★ See how much is at stake for your Community College District at: [cta.org/Prop55Extension](http://cta.org/Prop55Extension).

Source: 2024-25 EPA Entitlement

"Many programs already face insufficient faculty numbers, including instructional programs, counseling, and additional academic and student support services," she says. "This means students may have longer waits to meet with counselors or they may see delays in obtaining classes necessary to fulfill the requirements needed to earn certificates and degrees or transfer to other colleges and universities," she says.



Mt. SAC FA members collected Prop. 55 signatures at their appreciation event.

Woolery says their union has been organizing to build awareness and pass the extension in a variety of ways, including communicating with the college's governing board about the campaign, sharing information during faculty meetings (like Faculty Association and Academic Senate), and now gathering member signatures.

"We are looking at ongoing activities and considering new ones to speak about the campaign," Woolery says. "Our end-of-semester coffee event, 'Cup of Thanks,' is a favorite member activity that will allow us to reach individual members before they depart for the winter break. When we return to campus in January, we will be in a winter intersession and most teaching occurs online in the intersession, so leadership is currently considering how to outreach to members who will not be traveling to the campus."

Check out the tools and resources online at [cta.org/Prop55Extension](http://cta.org/Prop55Extension), including customizable materials to help spread the word, signature gathering resources, tips on answering tough questions, and a funding loss calculator.

### How Much is at Stake for Your College District?

Passing an extension of Prop. 55 is major for our community colleges, with more than \$1.6 billion in funding at stake.

Find out how much your community college district could lose by using our Prop. 55 Funding Loss Calculator, online at [cta.org/Prop55Extension](http://cta.org/Prop55Extension). Be sure to highlight the amount when discussing the initiative with colleagues and friends, so it's clear exactly what's at stake for your college specifically.

# Choosing Unity Over Discord

If last year taught us anything, it underscored the importance of our unity during ongoing chaos. In these mean times, we have to protect each other and our union. At a point where we may feel limited in how to respond, please remember that you are not alone. You are part of a powerful community – one that believes in resistance, in disruption of injustice, and in radical kindness.

## President's Message

As we work together to achieve our shared goals as educators, colleagues, and union siblings, I feel so lucky to have our union and each other to rely on and build together for the community colleges all students deserve. As we face mounting threats to our union, our craft, and public education, we must be even more vigilant in defending our values, centering equity, and lifting all member voices in our fight for better.

CCA has a legacy of transparency and democracy that guides our union while ensuring every member is seen, heard, and valued as we organize to build power together. This serves as a bedrock of solidarity that supports all our union's efforts, allowing us to discuss, collaborate, and reach a consensus.



CCA President Randa B. Wahbe

Guided by our victories of the past and powered by our shared values and collective will, I'm excited for this year and the challenges we're going to overcome together. Community college educators just like you and me have been organizing to build power since 1965 for situations like we face today.

Let's all build together and make our shared vision a reality as we continue the fight for the higher education opportunities all communities deserve. Be a part of our movement – email me at [President@CCA4Us.org](mailto:President@CCA4Us.org) and get active in our union today!

In Peace and Unity,  
Randa

## Building Our Union!

### Calbright Part-Time Faculty File Intent to Join Union



In mid-December, the united part-time faculty at Calbright College went public with their intent to unionize and join the Calbright Faculty Association (CFA) to fight for job stability, fair working conditions, equitable pay and benefits, meaningful inclusion in decision-making processes, and professional growth opportunities.

About 80 percent of part-time faculty submitted commitment cards to join the union, adding their names to their organizing committee's letter asserting their right to unionize and expressing their hope that being included as partners in student success will make Calbright College even better.

The addition of currently unrepresented part-time faculty more than doubles the current size of CFA, and brings all education workers at Calbright College into one collective bargaining unit. Part-time inclusion into the full-time faculty contract will be a subject of bargaining immediately, beginning this January.



## ADVOCATE

The Community College Association, with CTA and NEA as our partners, advocates and organizes with California's public community college faculty, staff, and students; empowers locals; builds strong and effective coalitions; promotes equity, inclusion, anti-racism, social justice, and part-time faculty equality, and strives to preserve universal access to quality public education.

**COMMUNITY COLLEGE ASSOCIATION**  
916-288-4921

**EDITOR**  
Julian Peebles

**GRAPHIC DESIGNER**  
Anqi Hong

**EDITORIAL ASSISTANT**  
Amy Peruzzaro

### CCA OFFICERS

Randa B. Wahbe, President  
Cypress College  
[president@cca4us.org](mailto:president@cca4us.org)

Jonathan Ausubel, Vice President  
Chaffey College  
[vp@cca4us.org](mailto:vp@cca4us.org)

John Sullivan, Secretary  
San Bernardino Valley College, Riverside City College and Santiago Canyon College  
[secretary@cca4us.org](mailto:secretary@cca4us.org)

Jesus Gutierrez, Treasurer  
Citrus College  
[treasurer@cca4us.org](mailto:treasurer@cca4us.org)

### CTA STAFF/ASSOCIATE STAFF

Lori Adams, Maxine Aragon, Greg Ardoine, Justin Arnold, Mia Banta, Aline Arsenian, Mary Bernardin, Rebecca Carmelia, Shelbie Cassella, Donna Christoffersen, Aurora Curiel-Rogers, Robin Devitt, Celeste Frago, Antonio Galindo, Demetrio Gonzalez-Hoy, Jon Halvorsen, JJ Hewitt, Jeff Kirby, Chrissy Lyons, Joshua Kob, Karmen Lee Ortloff, Brian McNally, Angel Maldonado, Jocelyn Munoz, Emily Nascimento, Frank Oppedisano, Marianne Reynolds, Albany Rippey, Sharon Sadrudeen, Diego Santelices, Laura Schultz, Rhetta Sternberg, Kenya Spearman, Shaye Stephens, Elizabeth Swain, Marty Thompson

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# Grants

Looking to build your local union power? Check out the CCA website ([cca4us.org](http://cca4us.org)) for more information. Talk to a local leader about applying for one of our many grants.

## CCA Part-time Membership Tracking Grant

Need help reconciling your part-time membership? This grant assists chapters with this essential work. Any chapter that represents part-time faculty can apply.

## CCA Membership Development Grant

Build your union with a CCA Membership Development grant. Up to \$5,000 for membership specific activities that bring your members together to build a stronger union. Visit [cca4us.org/grants](http://cca4us.org/grants) for examples of successful membership grants.

## Recent Membership Development Grants

- Rio Hondo College FA: Union-branded “go-bags” for emergency situations
- San Joaquin Delta College TA: “Open House Series” division-specific meetings
- Sierra College FA, Long Beach CHI, and Long Beach FA: Member recruitment and appreciation campaigns

## CCA Innovative Grant

CCA offers Innovative Grants up to \$5,000 for projects that support local chapter operations. Applications for CCA Innovative Grants must be submitted prior to the events for which the chapter seeks reimbursement. Chapters can apply at anytime during the year.

## Recent Innovative Grants

- Chaffey College FA—Social media rejuvenation
- Mendocino Part-Time FA—Site Representative training
- Napa Valley College FA—Shirts, buttons and banners for spring visibility event

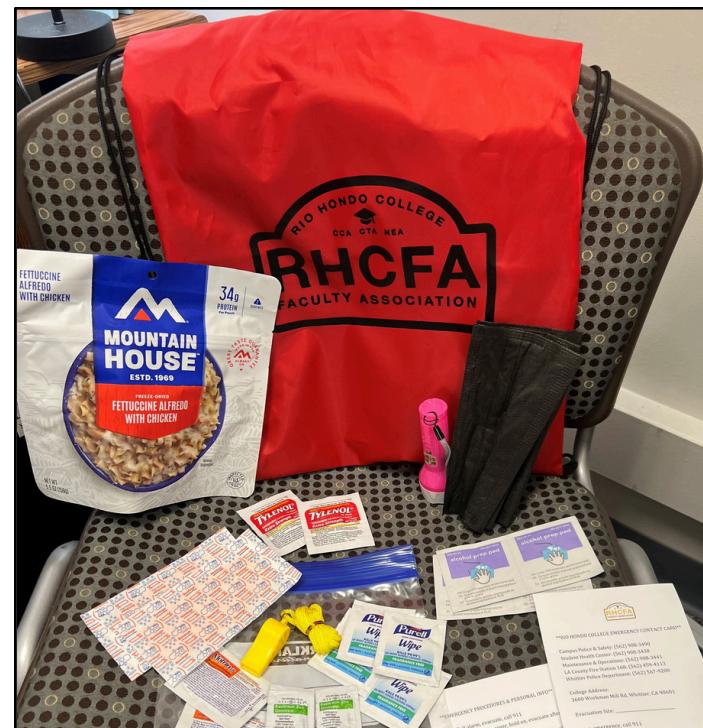
## Local Chapter Reassigned Time Grant

The Local Chapter Reassigned Time grants reimburse districts for hourly release time for members of your local union to perform essential work for the local (including training for negotiators, bargaining prep, and/or at-the-table time; serving as communications officer for your local; leading or serving on a local organizing or membership committee, and serving as a local grievance officer).



## Grant Recipients Share Their Stories

### Membership Development Grant



Rio Hondo College FA

**“This project has been highly successful in strengthening member engagement and demonstrating union leadership on safety.”**

## Innovative Grant

**“We developed a consistent approach to social media posting,” Chaffey College leaders shared. “These posts have provided relevant information to faculty and we have increased our visibility. This year, we will determine new approaches based on this experience to provide valuable ways to interact with the union.”**

★Has your local used one of these grants? We'd love to hear about how you're building your union! Please reach out to [jpeoples@cta.org](mailto:jpeoples@cta.org) to share your story!



## Long Beach Part-Time Faculty Win After Successful Wage Lawsuit

The members of Certificated Hourly Instructors (CHI) Faculty Association, representing part-time faculty at Long Beach City College (LBCC), scored a victory at the bargaining table following their successful lawsuit regarding minimum wage and hour laws.

This landmark decision established that LBCC must pay part-time faculty for all hours worked, and that current pay rates *do not* and *have not* met the minimum wage threshold for non-exempt employees. With

the power of the legal victory, CHI won new salary schedule pay rates equivalent to a full-time parity factor of 51% (up from 42%). Across the salary schedule, this means an average 8.94% salary increase, with the lowest paid part-time faculty seeing a pay increase of more than 15% retroactive to August 2025.

This victory is in addition to a large settlement for part-time faculty in back-owed wages that will be dispersed in the coming months. CHI demanded to bargain the impacts and effects of this ruling to ensure the pay rates follow the law.

“CHI has successfully contractualized the road to pay parity between full-time and part-time faculty at LBCC,” CHI President Crystal Mejia-Huckabee said. “CHI is taking on the fight and making progress towards equal pay for equal work! This is only the beginning.”



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# New Year, New Laws



## Tracking legislation that impacts community colleges

By: CCA Advocate Staff

New laws that impact California community colleges went into effect on Jan. 1 this year. Here's a review of a few that CCA advocated for, shepherding them through the legislative process from ideas to bills and now laws.

### AB 1028 (Fong): Due Process Rights for Part-Time Faculty

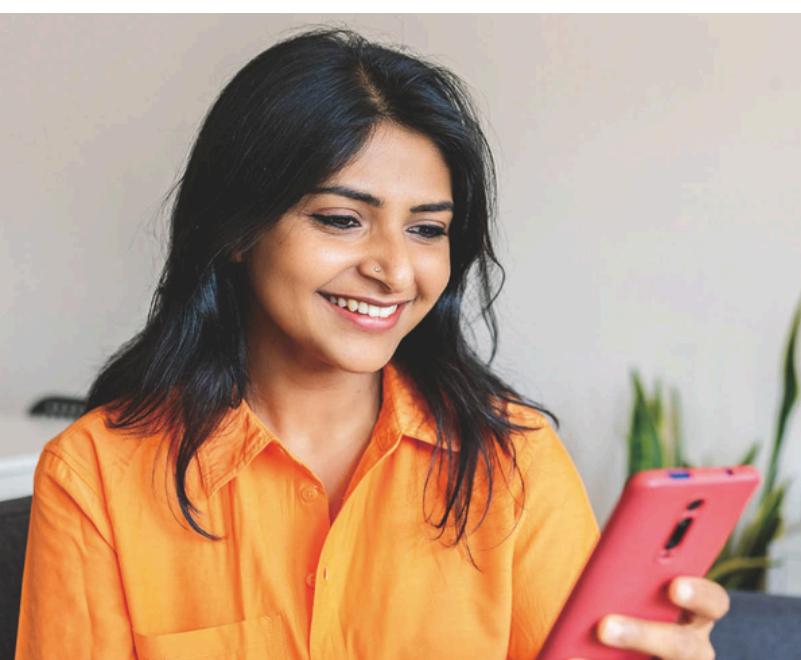
Requires, if the governing board of a community college district terminates the employment of a temporary employee, that the procedure for terminating the temporary employee comply with the provisions of the local collective bargaining agreement that pertain to the termination of a temporary employee and provides, in all cases, that part-time faculty assignments are temporary in nature, contingent on enrollment and funding, and subject to program changes.

### SB 241 (Cervantes): Requires Community College Personnel to be Human

This law requires all community college instructors, librarians, counselors, and other credentialed staff to meet the terms of their credential, which includes being a human. This law does not prohibit community college staff from using artificial intelligence tools to assist in college operations or in providing services to students.

### SB 271 (Reyes): Expansion of Basic Needs Services Definition

This bill expands the definition of basic needs services and resources to include childcare services and resources and explicitly states all available financial aid includes supplemental awards such as the Cal Grant award for students with dependent children.



### CTA Chapter Leaders

Take our survey and be entered for a chance to win a \$50 gift card.\*

Enter by January 31, 2026.  
Scan the code or visit  
[tostandard.co/ccasurvey](http://tostandard.co/ccasurvey)



CCA leaders meet with elected officials and share our perspective. Pictured (left-right), CCA Vice President Jon Ausabel; Citrus College FA President Gerhard Peters, State Sen. Susan Rubio, CCA President Randa Wahbe, Mt. SAC FA President Emily Woolery, College of the Desert Vice President Drew Aleman.

### SB 391 (Laird): Chancellor's Office Data Request Fees

Our union's efforts helped change this bill before it became a law. While the law allows the Chancellor's Office to charge fees for access to data, our negotiations with the senator's office resulted in the exemption of community college faculty members from these fees (in addition to undergraduate and graduate students) when the request for data is related to ongoing studies and research.

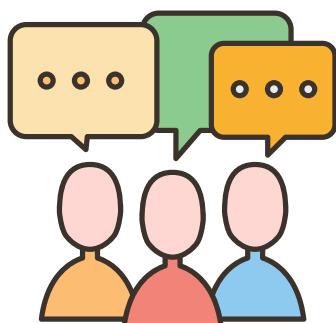
### Follow Important Bills on CCA Website

Want to know more about legislation that our union supports, watches and opposes? Search CCA and CTA bill positions for pending legislation at the CCA website ([cca4us.org](http://cca4us.org)), which is updated regularly with the latest information and disposition of bills.

Interested in advocating for bills supported by CCA that impact us, our colleges and our students? Contact CCA Vice President Jon Ausabel at [vp@cca4us.org](mailto:vp@cca4us.org) for more information.



Former CCA President Eric Kaljumägi joined CCA and CTA local presidents in advocating for public education last spring with Assemblyman Damon Connolly, D-San Rafael.



# Conferences

## New Year's Resolution: Attend a CCA Conference!

Sharpen your skills, learn some new ones, and meet fellow community college educators just like you at a CCA conference this year. Check out informative and topical workshops on organizing and advocacy, and learn how to help build power in your local association! More information available on the CCA website ([cca4us.org](http://cca4us.org)).

Each conference includes a CCA Council business meeting, where chapter delegates approve budgetary changes, vote on action items, and consider a variety of issues.

### Winter Conference

Feb. 27-March 1, 2026

Hilton Orange County, Costa Mesa

Got advocacy? This conference focuses on representation, advocacy, and grievances. Strengthen your union muscles and learn more about how to fight for your union colleagues! Also: Special elections for CCA offices (see Page 8).



### Spring Conference

April 24-26, 2026

Irvine Marriott

We are the Union! This conference focuses on building membership and member engagement. Spring Council includes elections, consideration of the CCA budget, legislative positions, and other action items. We also take time this conference to honor outstanding CCA members with awards.



### Fall Conference

October 9-11, 2026

Grand Hyatt, San Francisco

Our contracts outline our working conditions and our students' learning conditions – that's why the Fall Conference is dedicated to bargaining and negotiations! Attend and learn strategies and tools to help your local win at the bargaining table.



### Year-Long Academies

(Requires separate application – see [cca4us.org](http://cca4us.org) for details):

California Leadership Academy (CLA)

- Winter 2026 through Fall 2026

Building Strong Locals (BSL)

- Winter 2027 through Fall 2027



## New CCA Committee Focused on Advocacy



### Building power, passing legislation among priorities

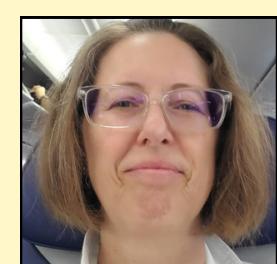
Opportunities are now available to join a new CCA Committee focused on our work to pass Legislation, build power and fight for the community colleges our students deserve.

The CCA Council approved the formation of the Advocacy Committee at the Fall Conference in October, separating it from the Legislation Committee and outlining its charge in CCA's bylaws.

The Advocacy Committee will:

- Examine, research, and monitor faculty points of interest in CTA/NEA, state legislation, the governor's office, the California Community Colleges Chancellor's Office, and issues from local to national.
- Coordinate with Legislation and Policy committees to ensure consistent and supported positions, and with the Communications Committee for advocacy directed toward or by a larger audience.
- Organize at least one member advocacy training per year.
- Organize member lobby days at local, state, and federal levels with legislators.

According to Advocacy Committee Chair Denise Kruizenga-Muro, the committee was created to focus solely on advocacy and allow the Legislation Committee to concentrate on the hundreds of bills working their way through the Legislative process.



Denise Kruizenga-Muro

"The Advocacy Committee will be working closely with the Legislation Committee to determine our goals and work," says Kruizenga-Muro, from Riverside College. "I am looking forward to this committee beginning its work, and excited to be working with CCA in this role!"

In addition to Kruizenga-Muro, the members of the committee are Andrew Aleman, College of the Desert; E.J. Baldonado-Wilkins, Saddleback College; Kristen Dennis, Southwestern College; Janet Hill, Riverside City College; Kelvin Leeds, Rancho Santiago CCD; and Maria Ortiz, San Bernardino Valley College.

"If we organize and work together, we have the power to face and overcome challenges, to develop creative solutions, and to make the changes we want to see in our state, which can influence what happens nationally," Kruizenga-Muro says.

Committee members will be reaching out to CCA chapters to identify local advocates to be a part of the statewide advocacy work.

# Get to Know Your CCA Board

The CCA Board is here to help you and your union chapter

## CCA BOARD



- A** JOHN MARTIN, DISTRICT A  
Represents: Butte CEA (FT), Siskiyou CHEA, Lake Tahoe CC (Clif), Lake Tahoe CCTA, Lassen CCTA, Los Rios (At-Large), Mendocino CFA (PT), Shasta CFA
- B** RICARDO AGUILAR, DISTRICT B  
Represents: San Joaquin Delta CTA, Solano CCTA
- C** TREVOR GATZ, NORTHERN BIPOC EQUITY/ JUSTICE AT-LARGE
- D** KRISTIE IWAMOTO, DISTRICT C  
Represents: Gavilan CFA, Napa Valley CFA, Sierra CFA
- E** ANTHONY VILLARREAL, DISTRICT D  
Represents: Calbright CFA, College of the Sequoias FA, Hartnell College FA, Merced FA, Monterey Peninsula CTA
- F** TONI PIRTE, NORTHERN WOMEN'S RIGHTS/EMPOWERMENT AT-LARGE
- G** PATRICK MITCHELL, NORTHERN LGBTQ+/ CTA/ABC/PAC AT-LARGE
- H** VACANT, DISTRICT E  
Represents: College of the Canyons FA, Kern CC Chapter, Taft College FA (West Kern), West Hills CFA
- I** JUDITH KREFT, NORTHERN P/T FACULTY
- J** JOHN SULLIVAN, CCA SECRETARY
- K** CALEB CASTANEDA, DISTRICT F  
Represents: Barstow CFA, Copper Mountain CFA, San Bernardino CCD FA, Victor Valley CFA
- L** PAMELA JAMES, SOUTHERN BIPOC EQUITY/ JUSTICE AT-LARGE
- M** RUDY RIOS, DISTRICT G  
Represents: College of the Desert FA, College of the Desert AF, Rio Hondo CFA
- N** RANDA WAHBE, CCA PRESIDENT
- O** JONATHAN AUSUBEL, CCA VICE PRESIDENT
- P** SCOTT DOUGLASS, DISTRICT H-1
- Q** JACKIE BOBOYE, DISTRICT H-2  
Represents: Chaffey College FA, Imperial Valley CFT, Imperial Valley PT, MiraCosta UF North Orange Co. CCD
- R** CRYSTAL HUCKABEE, DISTRICT I  
Represents: Long Beach CC FA (FT), CHI Long Beach CC (PT)
- S** JESUS GUTIERREZ, CCA INTERIM TREASURER
- T** JENNIE BELTRAN, DISTRICT J  
Represents: Citrus CFA, Coast CC Association, FA of Rancho Santiago CCD, Rancho Santiago CEFA
- U** TIFF GAUSE, SOUTHERN LGBTQ+ AT-LARGE
- V** LORRAINE SLATTERY, DISTRICT K  
Represents: Mt. San Jacinto CFA, Palo Verde CC Association, Southwestern CEA
- W** GEOFF JOHNSON, SOUTHERN P/T FACULTY
- X** JACQUELINE PENHOS, SOUTHERN WOMEN'S RIGHTS/EMPOWERMENT AT-LARGE
- Y** SAM ABBAS, DISTRICT L  
Represents: South Orange County CCD FA
- Z** JOSHUA CHRIST, DISTRICT M  
Represents: Mt. San Antonio CFA
- AA** JENNIFER ESCOBAR, DISTRICT N  
Represents: Riverside CCD FA

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\*\* Automatic or electronic payments using your checking account and routing number are not considered purchases. By providing your payee with your debit or credit card number, your posted automatic payments will be counted as eligible purchases. Some bill payments will meet the monthly requirement for an ACH debit or credit transaction. Debit card cash-back amounts, cash advances on credit cards, and checks do not count towards qualifications.

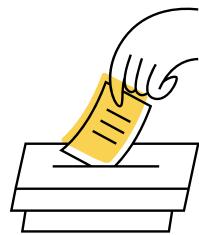
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# ELECTIONS

## Upcoming Elections

Interested in increasing your involvement for our union, students, craft, and higher education? Run for elected office to be a voice and representative for your fellow CCA members and colleagues.

A special election will be held at the Winter Conference to fill two CCA Board Director vacancies:

- District E, representing College of the Canyons FA, Kern CCD Chapter, Taft CFA, and West Hills CFA
- Northern Part-Time Faculty At-Large



The CCA Secretary, Treasurer, and half of CCA Board of Directors seats will also be up for election at our Spring Conference in April.

*Through CCA's affiliation with CTA and NEA, there are also opportunities to serve as representative to other decision-making bodies:*



### CCA State Council

*Four times a year in Los Angeles*

An election will be held for a Higher Ed seat (HE-2) on the CTA State Council of Education, representing Butte, Lake Tahoe, Sierra, Shasta, and the Siskiyous. Please see the CTA website ([CTA.org](http://CTA.org)) for more information and an election timeline.



### NEA Representative Assembly

*Meets July 3-7 in Denver*

Attend the largest democratic assembly in the world as a delegate to the NEA Representative Assembly, which will be held July 4-7, 2026 in Denver. Declaration of Candidacy forms will be available on the CTA website on Jan. 5, 2026, and must be submitted by Jan. 30, 2026.



### Be a Voice for Your Colleagues

... And a leader for California Community Colleges. Above: CCA leaders attended the NEA Representative Assembly (RA) last year in Portland, Ore. Run for election as a delegate to this year's RA in Denver! Below: The highest policy-making body in CTA, the State Council of Education holds discussions and takes positions on issues important to California educators and public education, as well as honoring our own, like when Ed Gomez won higher educator of the year in 2024. Be a part of the conversation and run to be a State Council representative.

