

ADVOCATE



The Official Newspaper of the Community College Association/CTA-NEA

Volume 59
Number 1
SEPTEMBER 2023



From left to right: NVCFA President Kristie Iwamoto, CCA Vice President Randa Wahbe and former CCA Part-Time Director South Josue Arredondo



California Delegation at the 2023 NEA Representative Assembly

CCA MAKES NATIONAL MOVES

By Gabriella Landeros

Each summer, approximately 6,000 educators across the country meet to debate the vital issues that impact American public education and set HE policy and activities for the year ahead. And this summer was no different.

THESE DELEGATES represent the three million members of the NEA. The **NEA Annual Meeting and Representative Assembly (RA)** is considered the world's largest democratic, deliberative body, by educators, for educators. This year, CCA had 16 members, part of the California delegation of just over 500, attend the RA in Orlando, Florida in July. Some were statewide delegates, and a few were local delegates. CCA brought up critical issues impacting higher education and advocated for equitable policies, including pay parity for part-time faculty.

"It always gives me goosebumps when I think about the RA, the largest democratic body in the world. We are setting policy for the nation when it comes to public education. This year I put forward a new business item (NBI) #10 calling on NEA to create a nationwide campaign for part-time faculty parity, in support of part-time faculty wages, benefits and working conditions. The delegates approved the NBI with over 95% support! I also collaborated with a higher education colleague in Minnesota on NBI 9, focused on creating a higher education program where we look at capturing statistics and data to improve higher education," said CCA Vice President Randa Wahbe. "The energy among 5,000+ educators powered us through that week. Hearing stories from other states about women's right to choose, LGBTQ+ issues and the use of pronouns renewed our passion for the profession. I appreciate CTA President David Goldberg on the first day of the California Caucus meeting saying that we should feel humbled by the rights afforded us in California

and need to be conscientious of these basic rights we take for granted."

In Wahbe's speech, powerful words were addressed to delegates in the room: "There is a crisis in higher education! Nationally, part-time faculty make up 70% of the faculty across the higher education system. They must have the same qualifications to teach as their full-time counterparts, yet they are paid about 1/3 of what their full-time counterparts earn for doing the same work. Our contingent faculty colleagues are an invaluable labor force who have few benefits, no job security and inequity in pay that necessitates they teach across multiple districts earning them the moniker of freeway flyer and road scholar. Adjunct faculty and staff are the backbone of the higher education system. Without them, our system of higher education would collapse."

First-time delegate Judith Kreft, who is the Vice President of the Sierra College Faculty Association said, "I was impressed with the NEA leadership in regard to their political acumen. There are a lot of skills that one must have to be leading the NEA, and everyone was prepared. Active vendors had a computer system set up where you could contact any state representative about any topic you choose. It was uplifting to see TV screens announcing support for policies."

"It was a great opportunity to see and learn about how NEA works as well as how states have a say and influence the education agenda forward. I felt inspired and empowered, specifically to help and support our higher education union members," said Ricardo Aguilar, who is on the CCA Board of Directors representing San Joaquin Delta College and Solano College.

"I have attended twice before. Once online and once in person. I felt inspired that I am helping our state teachers take part in the democratic process," said Josue Arredondo, who teaches English as a part-

time professor at Southwestern College.

"It was a great learning experience to witness so many educators in one room," said Bianca Swan-Finch, who is a full-time theatre department chair at Mt. San Jacinto College.

CCA delegates also joined the National Council for Higher Education, with the support of United Faculty of Florida (UFF), in a postcard-writing campaign to encourage UFF members to sign up for eDues. A total of 2,000 cards were written and mailed to UFF members. ■



"It always gives me goosebumps when I think about the RA, the largest democratic body in the world. We are setting policy for the nation when it comes to public education. This year I put forward a new business item #10 calling on NEA to create a nationwide campaign for part-time faculty parity, in support of part-time faculty wages, benefits and working conditions."

—Randa Wahbe
CCA Vice President



VISION 2030: STILL A BIT BLURRY, BUT WE KNOW IT INVOLVES AI

By CCA President **Eric Kaljumägi**

ON THE FIRST DAY of June 2023, Sonya Christian became the Chancellor of the California Community Colleges (CCCCO), replacing Eloy Oakley. That same day, she held a meeting of local district chancellors and presidents to identify priorities for our college system. The day after, she held a similar meeting with members of the Community College League of California (composed of local board of trustee members and presidents/chancellors/CEOs) and the Foundation for CCC. Two weeks later, the Chancellors' Consultation Council (of which I'm a member) saw the first outline of "Vision 2030." There have been a number of meetings to promote Vision 2030 since then.

In some ways, Vision 2030 is a continuation of Eloy Oakley's "Vision for Success" from 2017 and Governor Newsom's "Roadmap for the Future" from 2022. However, while the Vision for Success had seven core commitments and six goals with associated metrics, Vision 2030 simplifies the goals but expands to 17 actions (so far) including several that have the potential to dramatically affect the work that faculty do and influence the majors that we offer.

If a single word was used to describe Vision 2030, it would be "equity." The three goals of the vision are "equity in success," "equity in access" and "equity in support." "Equity in success" will be addressed by clear career pathways for transfer or the workforce and increased use of stackable credentials and credit for prior learning. "Equity in access" will involve enhanced recruitment outreach, providing additional flexibility in instructional modalities and vastly expanding dual enrollment programs. "Equity in support" involves things like financial aid reform and increased student housing.

Two of the three strategic foci (called "directions" by the CCCCCO) also involve the word "equitable." Equitable baccalaureate attainment will be enhanced by dual enrollment, flexible scheduling, credit for prior learning and improved articulation. Equitable workforce and economic development will be improved by expanding offerings, internships and industry partnerships with a prioritization on careers in health care, climate, education and the STEM disciplines.

The third strategic focus is named "Outcomes and Actions for the Next Frontier." While this focus includes the modernization of system technology infrastructure and data analytics, it also mentions artificial intelligence (AI) in two ways. First, the CCCCCO hopes to use generative AI as a tool to create adaptive learning experiences. Second, they wish to analyze AI technology with the hope of finding related policy reforms and practices that will help students succeed.

Taken together, Vision 2030 has the potential to noticeably change the working conditions of our profession. If implemented, significantly more faculty time will need to be spent on curriculum changes, documenting equity improvements and learning about AI as a teaching tool. Significantly more course sections

will be taught asynchronously online or at a high school to high school students. STEM, health care and education faculty will probably find jobs to be plentiful, but conversely, there may be a withering or intentional reduction in some other disciplines.

The CCCCCO has created a webpage about Vision 2030 at www.cccco.edu/About-Us/Vision-2030. I encourage everyone to review it, to attend some of the planned events and to reflect on how this vision will affect your teaching, your department and the students at your college. Also, I suggest you learn more about how AI can

be used in your discipline. While my prognostication skills are far more fuzzy than 20/30, I'm confident that the next few months will determine the CCCCCO's direction for the next several years. We will need to advocate for our interests soon. Please let me know your thoughts on Vision 2030 by emailing me. ■

Eric Kaljumägi
CCA President
president@cca4us.org

"If a single word was used to describe Vision 2030, it would be 'equity.' The three goals of the vision are 'equity in success,' 'equity in access' and 'equity in support.'"

ADVOCATE

The Community College Association, with CTA and NEA as our partners, advocates for California's public higher education faculty, empowers locals, builds strong and effective coalitions, promotes equity and inclusion, and strives to preserve quality public education.

COMMUNITY COLLEGE ASSOCIATION
916-288-4921

EDITOR
Gabriella Landeros

GRAPHIC DESIGNER
Christina Barbieri

EDITORIAL ASSISTANT
Amy Peruzzaro

CCA OFFICERS

Eric Kaljumägi, *President*
Mt. San Antonio College
president@cca4us.org

Randa B. Wahbe, *Vice President*
Cypress College
vp@cca4us.org

John Sullivan, *Secretary*
San Bernardino Valley College, Riverside City College and Santiago Canyon College
secretary@cca4us.org

Jonathan Ausubel, *Treasurer*
Chaffey College
treasurer@cca4us.org

CTA STAFF/ASSOCIATE STAFF

Lori Adams, Greg Ardoin, Justin Arnold, Mia Banta, Mary Bernardin, Rebecca Carmelia, Shelbie Cassella, Donna Christoffersen, Aurora Curiel-Rogers, Robin Devitt, Celeste Frago, Jon Halvorsen, Kara Hoines, Joshua Kob, Mark Leach, Karmen Lee Ortloff, Chrissy Lyons, Angel Maldonado, Brian McNally, Jocelyn Munoz, Frank Oppedisano, Marianne Reynolds, Albany Rippey, Jazmin Sandoval, Diego Santelices, Roxy Schofield, Laura Schultz, Rhetta Sternberg, Martin Thompson, Michelle Washington

ABOUT THE ADVOCATE

The CCA *Advocate* is published by the Community College Association and the Communications Department of the California Teachers Association, 1705 Murchison Drive, Burlingame, CA 94010. Publication of advertising does not indicate CCA or CTA approval of advertised product or any of the companies who purchase advertising.

The CCA *Advocate* is also available online:
cca4us.org | cta.org/cca-advocate

Follow CCA on Social:

www.facebook.com/cca4us

www.twitter.com/cca4us

www.instagram.com/cca4us



The CTA[®] Customized Cash Rewards Visa Signature[®] Credit Card

MAXIMIZE YOUR REWARDS



1% UNLIMITED CASH BACK
on purchases everywhere,
every time

2% AUTOMATIC CASH BACK
at grocery stores and
wholesale clubs

3% CUSTOMIZED CASH BACK
in the category of your choice – now with *enhanced* categories

Gas & EV Charging Stations • Online Shopping,
Cable, Internet, Phone Plans & Streaming • Dining • Travel
Drug Stores & Pharmacies • Home Improvement & Furnishings



Earn 2% and 3% cash back on the first \$2,500 in combined grocery store/wholesale club/choice category purchases each quarter, then earn unlimited 1% thereafter.

TO LEARN MORE OR TO APPLY TODAY:

call **888.758.7946** or visit **newcardonline.com** Mention Priority Code HC02QH

PLUS, A

\$200

**Amazon.com
Gift Card Bonus Offer!**

after you make at least \$500 in
purchases within the first 90 days
of account opening
(students not eligible)

This offer is unique to this solicitation. Our credit card offers may vary and this offer may not be available elsewhere, such as, if you visit ctamemberbenefits.org. You can take advantage of this offer when you apply now.

For more information about the rates, fees, other costs and benefits associated with the use of the credit card, call the toll-free number above or visit www.newcardonline.com and refer to the disclosures accompanying the application. Residents of the US and its territories only. See full disclosure for details. Federal law prohibits students from receiving a premium.

Restrictions apply, see amazon.com/gc-legal.

This credit card program is issued and administered by Bank of America, N.A. Visa and Visa Signature are registered trademarks of Visa International Service Association, and are used by the issuer pursuant to license from Visa U.S.A., Inc. Bank of America and the Bank of America logo are registered trademarks of Bank of America Corporation. The Contactless Symbol and Contactless Indicator are trademarks owned by and used with permission of EMVCo, LLC.



BANK OF AMERICA



BILLS OF IMPORTANCE TO HIGHER ED

By **CTA Governmental Relations**

During the current legislative session, CCA monitored multiple legislative proposals affecting higher education in California and helped get the following bills to the Governor.

Signed by the Governor

AB 358 – ADDIS (WATCH)

Excludes from the Field Act any building owned by the community college used as a residence for students attending a campus of a community college district, except upon a request by the community college district.

AB 928 – RENDON (SUPPORT)

Requires the State Department of Social Services to update the CalFresh Data Dashboard on an annual basis and as additional data become available about the specified population.

AB 1151 – MCKINNOR (WATCH)

Provides that there is a civic center at each and every community college within the state and authorizes the governing board of a community college district to authorize the use, by the community and organizations, of any civic center or other properties under the control of the governing board of the community college district, as provided.

AB 1173 – TA (WATCH)

Requires a district or school holding a college or career fair to notify each community college district within their overlapping jurisdiction of the event.

AB 1311 – SORIA (SUPPORT)

Requires the Legislative Analyst's Office to evaluate the effectiveness of educational programs involving all three segments of public post-secondary education in California; and requires the evaluation to be completed by January 2025.

AB 1342 – DAHLE (WATCH)

The requirement of the California College Promise fee waiver is that a student, who has enrolled in community college as a specified special part-or full-time student or dual enrollment high school pupil, be a first-time student.

AB 1541 – FONG (SUPPORT)

Provides each student member of the governing board of a community college district an advisory vote.

SB 467 – PORTANTINO (SUPPORT)

Prohibits a student from being denied admission to a community college apprenticeship or internship training program because the student uses an individual tax identification number (instead of a social security number) for purposes of the background check required by the class or program.

On the Governor's Desk

AB 91 - ALVAREZ (WATCH)

A nonresident, low-income student who is a resident of Mexico, who registers for lower division courses at a San Diego and Imperial Counties Community Colleges Association (SDICCCA) college, and resides within 45 miles of the California-Mexico border is exempt from the nonresident tuition fee.

The Governor has until October 14 to sign or veto. To stay up-to-date, visit CCA's Legislation, Advocacy and Political Action page at cca4us.org/issuesandaction/legislationpoliticalaction. ■

Read the full story at cta.org/educator/cca



THE MONTHLY SCOOP

The Monthly Scoop is CCA's monthly newsletter that comes out every first Friday of the month. If you don't receive it, or it's not in your spam folder, please contact your CTA staff person. Unless you've unsubscribed from union communication, every CCA member with an email should be receiving this.

Let Provident Credit Union Finance Your Next Car

- ✓ Same rates for new and used vehicles
- ✓ No Payments for 90 days option*
- ✓ Up to 100% financing of purchase price including tax, license and warranty**
- ✓ Flexible terms up to 84 months***

Special 0.125% discount for CTA members!

providentcu.org/cta
(650) 508-0300

* Payments begin 90 days after loan funding; interest accrues from day of funding.

** Subject to credit rating. Up to 100% financing is available on new and pre-owned vehicles up to MSRP/Retail Kelley Blue Book value plus tax and license to qualified members.

*** Terms over 72 months require a minimum loan of \$20,000. Subject to credit rating.

©PCU 09/2023

Approved by



CALIFORNIA
TEACHERS
ASSOCIATION



UPDATE TO CCA BOARD MEMBERS

WHO IS YOUR CCA BOARD MEMBER?

Contact information for your board member is at cca4us.org.



A

JOHN MARTIN, DISTRICT A
Represents: Butte College EA, College of the Siskiyous/CHEA, Lake Tahoe CC FA, Lassen College FA, Los Rios (At-Large), Mendocino College FA, Shasta College FA

B

RICARDO AGUILAR, DISTRICT B
Represents: San Joaquin Delta College TA, Solano College/CCA/CTA

C

KRISTIE IWAMOTO, DISTRICT C
Represents: Napa Valley College FA, Sierra College FA
TREVOR GATZ, N. BIPOC EQUITY & JUSTICE AT-LARGE

D

ANTHONY VILLARREAL, DISTRICT D
Represents: Calbright College FA, College of the Sequoias TA, Hartnell College FA, Merced College FA, Monterey Peninsula College TA
PATRICK MITCHELL, N. LGBTQ+ AT-LARGE
JUSTIN BELL, N. P/T FACULTY AT-LARGE

E

SALVADOR JIMÉNEZ MURGUÍA, DISTRICT E
Represents: College of the Canyons FA, Kern CC Chapter, Taft FA (West Kern) West Hills College FA

F

JOHN SULLIVAN, CCA SECRETARY
CALEB CASTANEDA, DISTRICT F
Represents: Barstow College FA, Copper Mountain College FA, San Bernardino CCD FA, Victor Valley College FA

G

RUDY RIOS, DISTRICT G
Represents: College of the Desert AF, College of the Desert FA, Rio Hondo College FA
MARTHA CARREON, S. WOMEN'S AT-LARGE

H

RANDA WAHBE, CCA VICE PRESIDENT
JONATHAN AUSUBEL, CCA TREASURER
SUSAN PYNES, DISTRICT H-1
JACKIE BOBOYE, DISTRICT H-2
Represents: Chaffey College FA, Imperial Valley College FT, Imperial Valley College PT, MiraCosta College TA, UF North Orange County CCD

I

KASHARA MOORE, DISTRICT I
Represents: Long Beach CC FA (FT), CHI Long Beach CC (PT)

J

JESUS GUTIERREZ, DISTRICT J
Represents: Citrus College FA, Coast CC Association, FA of Rancho Santiago CCD, Rancho Santiago CEFA
TIFFANY GAUSE, S. WOMEN'S AT-LARGE

K

LORRAINE SLATTERY, DISTRICT K
Represents: Mt. San Jacinto College FA, Palo Verde CCA, Southwestern College EA
GEOFFREY JOHNSON, S. P/T FACULTY AT-LARGE (INTERIM)

L

SAM ABBAS, DISTRICT L
Represents: South Orange County CCD FA

M

ERIC KALJUMÄGI, CCA PRESIDENT
JOSHUA CHRIST, DISTRICT M
Represents: Mt. San Antonio College FA

N

DOROTHY REINA, DISTRICT N
Represents: Riverside CCD FA

CCA SEES BIG STRIDES FORWARD IN GOVERNOR'S FINAL BUDGET

By **CTA Governmental Relations**

ON JUNE 26, 2023, the Legislature and Governor announced a final budget agreement. The Legislature passed the various budget related bills on Tuesday, June 27 and Thursday, June 29. The Governor signed the budget bill package on July 10, which goes into effect immediately.

The budget agreement includes the following actions related to community colleges:

- **STUDENT-CENTERED FUNDING FORMULA (SCFF):** Includes \$678 million in ongoing Prop 98 funding for an 8.22% cost-of-living adjustment (COLA) for the SCFF.
- **ENROLLMENT GROWTH:** Provides \$26.4 million in ongoing Prop 98 funding to support 0.5% enrollment growth.
- **CATEGORICAL PROGRAMS:** Dedicates \$95.5 million in ongoing Prop 98 funding to provide a COLA for select categorical programs.
- **ONE-TIME PROGRAM REDUCTIONS/CHANGES:** Includes the following reductions/changes to one-time programs funded in the 2022 Budget Act:
 - **Deferred Maintenance and Instructional Equipment:** Reduces one-time funding

provided in the 2022 Budget Act for the Deferred Maintenance and Instructional Equipment program by \$494.3 million, leaving \$346.4 million for the program.

- **Student Recruitment and Retention:** Reduces one-time funding included in the 2022 Budget Act to support student recruitment and retention strategies from \$150 million to \$94.6 million. Provides \$50 million one-time Prop 98 funding to support student recruitment and retention in 2023-24.
- **COVID-19 Learning Recovery Emergency Block Grant:** Rejects the Governor's proposal to reduce the COVID-19 Learning Recovery Block Grant by \$345 million, maintaining the \$650 million in one-time Prop 98 funding provided in the 2022 Budget Act.
- **One-Time Funding Flexibility:** Includes trailer bill language to allow colleges to use the remaining funds from the COVID-19 Learning Recovery Emergency Block Grant, student retention and recruitment funding, and the Deferred Maintenance and Instructional Equipment Block Grant for any of these

purposes. The amount available for these activities is about \$1.1 billion.

- **Full-Time Faculty Audit Findings:** Implements recommendations made by the State Auditor to improve community colleges' use of funding to increase full-time faculty. Specifically, the budget agreement requires each community college district to annually report to the Community College Chancellor's Office on its progress in increasing the percentage of instruction by full-time faculty and in increasing faculty diversity. Requires the Chancellor's Office to provide an annual systemwide report to be posted on their website. Also requires the Chancellor's Office to establish and implement a policy to verify that community college districts are using full-time faculty funding appropriated in the annual budget for the designated purposes. Requires the Legislature and the Board of Governors of the California Community Colleges to be informed of any community college district that fails to comply with these requirements. ■

Read the full story at cta.org/educator/cca

▼ DeWayne Sheaffer (left) and Julius B. Thomas (right)



◀ From left to right: NEA Executive Committee Member Christine Sampson-Clark, DeWayne Sheaffer, NEA President Becky Pringle and Julius B. Thomas

Remembering JULIUS B. THOMAS

By Gabriella Landeros

CCA and the CCA Board of Directors regret to announce the passing of longtime Board Director Julius B. Thomas, a faculty member in counseling at Rio Hondo College (Whittier). He had served in various positions in CCA and CTA as well as serving as one of the NEA Directors from California on the NEA Board.

IN 2021, Julius was awarded the prestigious NEA Higher Educator of the Year Award for championing faculty and student rights as well as the NCHE's James Davenport Memorial Award for service to the union. Julius most recently served as the Southern BIPOC Director on the CCA Board. He leaves behind family, friends and colleagues. He is fondly remembered by all those who had the privilege to know him.

In an interview with CTA Board Member DeWayne Sheaffer, he shares what he remembers about his longtime friend and colleague. In this interview, you will learn more about Julius' work and the legacy he left behind.

Q: HOW LONG HAVE YOU KNOWN JULIUS?

I met Julius at a CCA Conference in 1998. I believe he was working at Pasadena College. This was before he joined the faculty at Rio Hondo College. He shared with me the story of wanting to enter the community college system after working at the Los Angeles County office (LACO) specializing in working with teens in the juvenile system. He enjoyed the work; however, the pay was substandard. He and his brother decided to invest time into landing a counseling faculty position at a community college. They looked for several months in Southern California only to be discouraged by the small employment offerings available. They were so committed to working at a community college that they went to the California Community College Job Fair in Northern California. As I said, *committed!* They both ultimately found opportunities in Southern California. He at Pasadena then Rio Hondo and Antoine at Mount San Jacinto and then Mount San Antonio College. Both working as counseling faculty.

Q: WHAT ROLES HAS JULIUS HELD WITH CCA AND BEYOND CCA?

Julius had most recently held the position of BIPOC South Director on the

CCA Board. This position and others were created due to the CCA Council recommendations. CCA had only one category of north and south directors which were the part-time faculty positions. There was a women's director, a minority director and an LGBTQ director. Neither of these were north nor south. The CCA Council came up with a motion to have a north and south LGBTQ, women's and BIPOC director positions. This motion passed unanimously. Julius also served as the NEA Higher Ed Board Director from California. NEA directors are awarded to each state based on total membership and do not dictate how each state would designate the seats. California, to my knowledge, is the only state that has a dedicated Higher Ed designation for one of the NEA California seats. Julius held this seat for six years. In this role, he worked well with all NEA directors from every state. No matter the director's political views, he found common ground to build a friendship. Julius was the type to meet and greet each person where they were. There were times when I could not work well with someone, and he would always remind me to be patient. He also held a position within his local union at Rio Hondo. He was well respected by his peers, and they trusted his union perspective.

Q: WHAT IMPACT HAS HE HAD ON YOUR LIFE?

Julius served as the big brother I never had. As an only child, I was always looking for a friend and one who would be honest with compassion. That was Julius to me. I was not interested in taking the place of his actual brother who knows me, and we communicate to this day. Julius would encourage me to run for various positions within the union. I had no intention of becoming president of the National Council for Higher Education. He and another colleague said you could do this. I trusted them and they both continued to work with me. When the at-large higher ed NEA Board seats became available he networked and encouraged me to run for the position. In this capacity, we both worked on higher education issues and representation within the national association.

Continues on PAGE 7 ►

► JULIUS B. THOMAS

Not only were we union brothers, but we were also family. We talked about our respective families and the instruction we received from our mothers and fathers. We emphasized the importance of understanding that failure is not an option and that mistakes do not define you. Being the first Black men to enter several positions, we were able to talk about the roadblocks and perceptions and rise above them anyway. We talked weekly regarding today's current events or union issues that were mounting and worked on developing a plan of implementation. It was apparent that wherever we went we were together. Facebook at one time posted that Julius and I were together 40 times during a particular year. Facebook had pictures to document the moments we were together doing the work. I was surprised and I shared the statement with him, and he laughed and said we are together a lot. We both loved to dress and shop. We would share our favorite haunts and compare the price of what we paid for items. He would only purchase shoes if there was a coordinated belt available. I, on the other hand, did not care. But there were times we would be admiring the attire we each were wearing at a given moment.

Julius was running for coordinated NEA/CTA Director. The person introducing him stated that he was the best-dressed delegate at State Council. I was present and stood up in protest, which brought on much laughter and a retraction that the introducer made from the podium. Others placed us in the category of best dressed. We both enjoyed men's fashion and shopping for ourselves.

Q: WHAT CONTRIBUTIONS HAS HE MADE TO PUBLIC EDUCATION?

Julius was very interested in social justice. I did not know he majored as an undergrad in sociology and psychology. This makes so much sense now because his comments were tailored from that lens. Of course, he was an athlete. He played basketball and at one time was contemplating becoming an NBA official. So much so that he took classes and auditioned for the position. He was very close and then decided to change.

Q: WHAT LEGACY DOES HE LEAVE BEHIND?

One of the biggest legacies I see he made to NEA is that there was an issue that was disturbing on many levels that he called out and directed his comments to an individual. The issue became so pronounced at a NEA Board meeting that a healing circle was called together. He participated in the healing circle which started the healing. He also called out that there needed to be agreements made with all in attendance. This is most often called NORMS. The agreements were created by those in the room. Those agreements are still in play today and are reviewed at each NEA Board meeting.

Q: WHAT WILL YOU REMEMBER ABOUT HIM?

I will remember the knowledge he had on various issues. He never tried to make anyone feel less than and recognized that all points of view are important and need to be in the room. He would travel from zero to 60 in a matter of seconds on an issue. However, when he calmed down, he could speak about the matter with compassion and information. I reflect on the times I would be present for one of those moments when I could calm him down and bring him back to zero. This did not happen in a way to control him, but to encourage him to slow down and see the other side. That did not happen a lot, but it did. I will miss our fashion discussions when we attended several formal events together. He was conservative in dress, and I was not. However, there will be times when we enjoyed the ensemble we created and had fun with fashion. I did not know he had men's fashion catalogs coming to his Rio Hondo faculty office. WOW! His loud laughter and his love of food.

Q: WHAT MOMENTS WOULD YOU LIKE TO SHARE ABOUT HIM?

Though we were not blood brothers he accepted me wholeheartedly and all as I did him. We would have differences of opinions, but we never argued. We wanted to be involved in the union as we both knew the importance of a union for Black men. Though being in a progressive state like California we needed protection. We were both tried by our administration and leadership in state organizations. However, we did not let that define us, mistake or not. We were each other's wind beneath our wings. What one accomplished we both celebrated but continued to keep our eyes on the prize. I have several other union brothers and sisters who are very important in my life. However, none like Julius! He is a rare breed and gone much too soon. When Julius passed it was made clear how important our friendship was to others. So many cards, text messages and words of encouragement were given to me. ■

STAR
PROMISE™

CTA Members, take advantage of Auto and Home/Renters Insurance that is...

Simple.
Trusted.
Affordable.
Right for you.

California Casualty
AUTO AND HOME INSURANCE | CTA

CalCas.com | 1.866.268.1754

CA Lic#0041343 ©2023 CCMC. Available in AZ, CA, CO, ID, KS, OR & WY. Coverages are subject to availability and eligibility.

Be in the
moment.

Breathe easier
with the only
Life insurance
endorsed by CTA.

The Standard™ CTA CALIFORNIA
TEACHERS
ASSOCIATION



Know that the ones you love most are
protected with coverage from The Standard.

- CTA-endorsed Life insurance helps protect your loved ones if something happens to you.
- Access helpful tools now with Travel Assistance* for travel-related emergencies and Life Services Toolkit* to help with estate planning, will preparation and more.

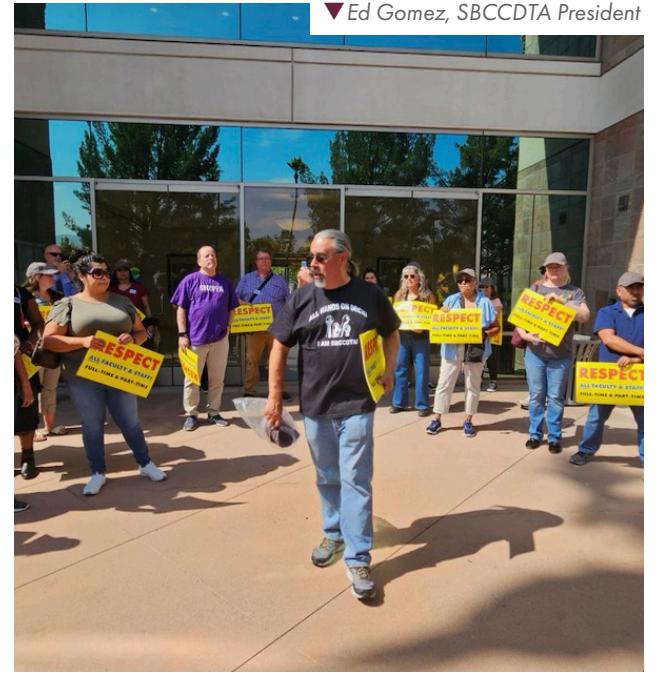
For opportunities to apply with no health questions asked, visit:

CTAMemberBenefits.org/Life



* Travel Assistance and Life Services Toolkit are provided through an arrangement with service partners that are not affiliated with The Standard. These services are not insurance products.

For costs and further details of the coverage, including exclusions, benefit waiting periods, any reductions or limitations and the terms under which the policy may be continued in force, please contact Standard Insurance Company at 800.522.0406. Standard Insurance Company, 1100 SW Sixth Avenue, Portland, OR 97204 GP190-LIFE/S399/CTA.3 SI 23136-CTAvol (8/23)



▼ Ed Gomez, SBCCDTA President

SAN BERNARDINO COMMUNITY COLLEGE DISTRICT TEACHERS ASSOCIATION

SBCCD TEACHERS ASSOCIATION DEMANDS END TO UNFAIR HEALTH CARE AND WORKLOAD POLICIES

By Ed Sibby

ON THURSDAY, August 10, and Friday, August 11, scores of instructors from San Bernardino Community College District Teachers Association (SBCCDTA) rallied at San Bernardino Valley College (Valley College) to demand the economic justice of affordable health care, while safeguarding against an insidious policy that could double the workload of SBCCDTA members – without compensation.

Lines of instructors stood in protest at the San Bernardino Community College District (SBCCD) office on August 10, brandishing signs as they protested a lack of health care for their SBCCDTA part-time instructors – a problem union leaders say could be resolved by tapping into a state reimbursement program. Union members want the San Bernardino Community College District to utilize the state-sponsored **Part-Time Faculty Health Insurance Program**, a \$200 million reimbursement initiative included in California’s 2022 Budget Act. SBCCDTA wants this health care provision, already being implemented successfully elsewhere, to be instituted in the SBCCD for over 700 part-time members.

“Their Cadillac health care plans stand in stark contrast to our members who neither have affordable health care, nor a path to receiving it.”

— ED GOMEZ, SBCCDTA President

According to SBCCDTA President Ed Gomez, “Vice Chancellor Kristina L. Hannon has expressed disapproval of the program, even stating ‘We cannot trust the state of California to give us the money.’ For professors and part-time faculty, some who received \$2.00 increases, it rings hollow when the vice-chancellor’s salary is \$269,000, and they recently voted themselves raises from 30K to 50K this past year,” he said.

For members like Mary Lawler, SBCCDTA Treasurer, who has worked five years as a part-time kinesiology and health instructor at Valley College, it’s a matter of daily pain and struggle. That’s about the same amount of time she has postponed hip replacement surgery because she cannot afford it. Like her colleagues, she wants to remain a healthy contributor to the college; “I’m just asking for us to get a resolution to this so part-time people can take their health benefits and get the help they need so they can have longevity to life,” she explained.

ZERO LOAD = ZERO PAY

SBCCDTA also wants specific clarification on district policy related to the coding of classes. Gomez, professor of history at Valley College, has said some faculty were told last school year they would teach two classes, but get paid for one. Individual classes have been designated as one-fifth of a “full load” of classes. By using a Zero Load code, the college can receive state funding for a second course of students by assigning Zero Load classes and doubling their workload without paying the instructor. SBCCDTA believes this policy is unacceptable and divisive to their membership. ■

Read the full story at cta.org/educator/cca

If you would like to take action or get involved, please scan the QR code or visit bit.ly/weareconcerned, fill out the letter and email it to SBCCDTA President Ed Gomez at egome014@ucr.edu.



NONPROFIT ORGANIZATION U.S. POSTAGE PAID LOS ANGELES, CA PERMIT NO. 31327

California Teachers Association
1705 Murchison Drive
Burlingame, CA 94010