

# ADVOCATE



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## MARCH IN MARCH

### *Student Learning Conditions Are Our Working Conditions*

By **Gabriella Landeros**

**ON MARCH 7**, CCA joined hundreds of marchers and participated in the March in March event in Sacramento. A coalition of faculty, student unions and organizations marched to the Capitol to bring attention to issues facing public higher education in California. The march of just under one mile crossed the Tower Bridge and then traveled east to the west lawn of the Capitol where the rally took place.

We had a couple of dozen CCA members participate in the event. This march and rally is a revival of the annual March in March events held before the COVID-19 pandemic. The organizers of this event hope to bring it back as an annual event that focuses on higher education in California. CCA/CTA, the Student Senate of CCC, the Chancellor's Office and AFT were among the groups sponsoring this event.

"You would think that a government interested in long-term prosperity would naturally believe in a high-quality higher education system that includes affordable student and workforce housing and attention to environmental and climate concerns. Unfortunately, we live in a state where students need to undertake political action in order to ensure adequate resources for transfer-level classes, student and workforce basic needs, and climate resilient school facilities. The faculty of CCA are proud to stand in solidarity with our students and we share their desire to have a stronger, more equitable post-secondary environment," said CCA President Eric Kaljumägi.

This year's march focused on the challenges our students and faculty face as higher education has become increasingly expensive and out of reach of so many in our state. The theme of the march

was Securing Students' Futures and called for the following:

#### **AFFORDABLE AND HIGH-QUALITY HIGHER EDUCATION**

- Extend the College Promise Program to all students
- Fully fund part-time students in new funding formula
- Fight increase in CSU tuition
- Fully implement Cal Grants reform
- Accountability for equity and diversity measures
- Ensure adequate resources for transfer level classes
- Student loan forgiveness



**I THOUGHT IT WAS A FABULOUS WAY TO SUPPORT OUR STUDENTS. ANYTIME WE CAN SUPPORT ONE ANOTHER WITH ANY OF OUR ISSUES I THINK IS A VALUABLE USE OF OUR TIME.**

— **Josie Malik**, San Joaquin Delta College Teachers' Association



**While public education has always been political, it is more so now. We need your voice. We need your stories to be heard.”**

# CCA’S ADVOCACY, AND WHY IT NEEDS TO GROW

By CCA President **Eric Kaljumägi**

**F**OUR TIMES EACH YEAR you receive this periodical in your mailbox. It is named (and has been for as long as I can remember) “The Advocate.” It is a fitting name, for a core task of CCA is to advocate for community college faculty at the statewide level.

Some of our advocacy is within CTA itself. Since community college faculty comprise only about 4% of CTA’s membership, CCA works with the higher education State Council delegates to ensure that community college issues are included in CTA’s work. While our fellow CTA members are generally friendly and welcoming, we often find that K-12 teachers are unaware of our issues.

Next, since community colleges are organized under the Board of Governors instead of the K-12 State Board of Education, CCA also advocates directly with both the Board of Governors and the State Chancellor’s Office (CCCCO). To support that advocacy, CTA has appointed me to CTA’s seat on the CCCCCO’s Consultation Council. Both VP Randa Wahbe and I engage the Board of Governors and the CCCCCO to include union interests, for student success requires a stable, motivated and well-trained workforce.

Finally, CCA works with other statewide groups. We have good relations with CFT/AFT, CCCI, ASCCC, FACCC and SSCCC and we frequently talk to them to discuss how we might be able to magnify our advocacy on shared concerns. One example of this occurred just a couple of weeks ago when CCA supported the “March in March.” While largely a student event, the goals of the marchers will lead to a better funded and more equitable community college system, and I, along with a number of other CCA members, were happy to march with our students.

Although we don’t meet as a committee at the CTA State Council, CCA functions like a State Council committee in that we review and recommend policy and legislative positions to CTA

on higher education matters. CTA usually adopts our recommendations, which then gives the professional CTA Government Relations staff direction as they advocate for our interests in Sacramento.

In recent years, we’ve had a very modest direct member advocacy program, but that will need to change. As efficient as our processes are, they don’t effectively substitute for faculty telling politicians their stories about their students. We have been on the losing end of several high profile bills that found strong support in the Legislature because they sounded good. Our opponents told stories of equity and efficiency and student success and won, even though faculty (and in some cases management) expressed concern. While public education has always been political, it is more so now. We need your voice. We need your stories to be heard.

This spring, certain members from the CCA Legislation and Advocacy Committee, the CCA Advocacy Task Force, and State Council will be trained in and will undertake direct advocacy in Sacramento and at politician’s home offices. From this group, we intend to expand to include as many CCA members as possible. I’ll let you know about training webinars as they become available.

You needn’t wait for formal training, though. Make an appointment with your state senator or assembly member today. Tell them about how recent changes are affecting your classroom and your students. They need to hear from you. ■

**Eric Kaljumägi**  
CCA President  
[president@cca4us.org](mailto:president@cca4us.org)

## ADVOCATE

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

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# CCA PART-TIME FACULTY VISIONING DISCUSSIONS

By **Geoff Johnson**, CCA Southern Part-Time Faculty At-Large Director

**CCA IS PROUD** to host the Part-Time Faculty Visioning Discussions, which are designed to be a space where important contract and legislation-related information dealing with part-time faculty issues can be shared and discussed in a way that is both informative and interactive, and allows for part-time faculty and their advocates to meet and discuss in a space that is both outside of, yet connected to CCA conference sessions. The key is to give brief overviews and provide participants with information, from contract language to legislative information, then move into breakout sessions to facilitate member-to-member discussion both within and across chapters. Such discussion can then be used to think about specific contract language goals and/or organizing and bargaining strategies, or possibly future policy or legislation. Another soft goal of the visioning sessions is to create a mutual understanding and appreciation of local-to-local challenges and build greater solidarity.

Missed the past discussions? No worries, there is still time to join us for the next ones on April 16 and May 21 from 4 – 6 p.m. ■

**Monthly Part-time Visioning Discussions**

**Dates of the Visioning Sessions**  
2/20, 3/19, 4/16, and 5/21

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Get Info

\$300 Checking Bonus: You must be a new member, 18 or older and reside in California. You are not eligible if you are a current owner or signer on a Provident Credit Union personal or business account or if you have been an owner or signer on a Provident Credit Union personal or business account within the last two years. One New Account Bonus per household/business. To be eligible, you must open one of the following checking accounts: Super Reward Checking, Provident Checking or Simply Free Checking; all other checking accounts are not eligible for the bonus. New Account Bonus offer may expire anytime. This offer cannot be combined with any other offers. The minimum balance for the Membership Savings account is \$5.00 You must fund your Checking account within the first 60 days of account opening with a minimum deposit of \$25. If you fail to fund your Checking account within the first 60 days you are no longer eligible for the New Account Bonus and your account(s) will be closed. \* In order to qualify for your New Account Bonus your account must be active and in good standing for two consecutive months following the month that your account is opened. All qualifying purchases and transactions referred to as "per month" or "monthly" only count towards the requirement of the month in which they POST, which will be on a business day (Monday – Friday) and may take one or more business days from the purchase/transaction date. Your account is deemed active by: (1) making purchases of \$400 or more using a debit and/or credit card\*\* per month, AND (2) performing monthly direct deposits or automatic credits of at least \$500 into your checking account, AND (3) enrolling in Provident's online banking service and e-Documents with a valid e-mail address. If your account remains inactive after 90 days from account opening you are no longer eligible for the New Account Bonus. Your account is in good standing if you: (1) demonstrate responsible account management—such as making regular deposits to bring your account to a positive end of day balance at least once every 30 days (including the payment of all credit union fees and charges); (2) avoid excessive overdrafts suggesting the use of Courtesy Pay as a continuing line of credit; (3) there are no legal orders, levies or liens against your account. New Account Bonus: We generally pay the New Account Bonus by crediting your Provident Credit Union Checking account. If Provident funded your savings account at account opening, you will receive the difference between your initial \$5.00 Savings account bonus and the stated bonus within 120 days of account opening. We may report the value of the New Account Bonus to the IRS and any applicable taxes are the responsibility of the member. \*\* 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. ©PCU 03/2024

## ► MARCH IN MARCH

### AFFORDABLE STUDENT AND WORKFORCE HOUSING

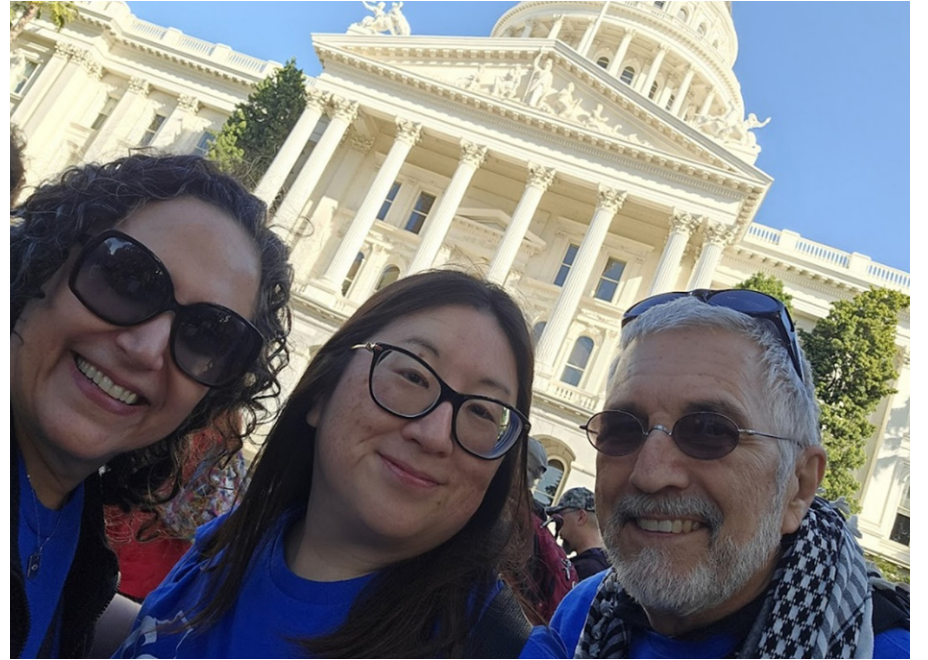
- Emergency measures to address student and workforce basic needs insecurity
- Funding for operational costs of affordable housing
- Living wage for all campus workers
- Addressing the affordable housing crisis in California

### ENVIRONMENTAL AND CLIMATE JUSTICE

- Divest our pensions from fossil fuels
- Climate resilient school facilities
- More support for environmental education across disciplines
- Fund the development of climate curriculum for community colleges ■

“  
**I wanted to join the march because it is important for our students to know that their educators stand with them. We support them, and we hear them. I really felt pride in our profession. This shows that if unions can come together, and colleges stand together, we can make things better for the next generation of our community college students.”**

—**Kristie Iwamoto**, Napa Valley College Faculty Association



## WE'RE WORKING HARD TO REPEAL THE WEP-GPO

### WHAT ARE THE WEP-GPO?

The Windfall Elimination Provision (WEP) and Government Pension Offset (GPO) significantly reduce the amount of money that you and your surviving spouse receive from Social Security. Many career part-time instructors will not receive a livable retirement benefit from CALSTRS and may be counting on previous work giving them a sizable Social Security benefit to supplement their CALSTRS retirement.

However, past surveys have shown that up to half of part-time faculty members are not aware that a significant portion of their earned social security retirement benefits might be taken away from them and their surviving spouses as a result of the WEP/GPO. CCA and CTA are working hard to repeal these burdensome policies that adversely impact our membership.

But we can't do it without you. We are stronger together! Visit [cca4us.org](http://cca4us.org) for more information and ways you can join the fight.

An advertisement for The Standard life insurance. It features a photograph of a woman smiling and holding a young child. The text reads: "Be in the moment. Breathe easier with the only Life insurance endorsed by CTA." There is a blue circular seal that says "SINCE 2007 CTA-ENDORSED". At the bottom, there are logos for "The Standard" and "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](http://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)

# CCA WINTER CONFERENCE EMPHASIZES MEMBER POWER IN FIGHTING FOR JUSTICE IN THE WORKPLACE

By **Gabriella Landeros**

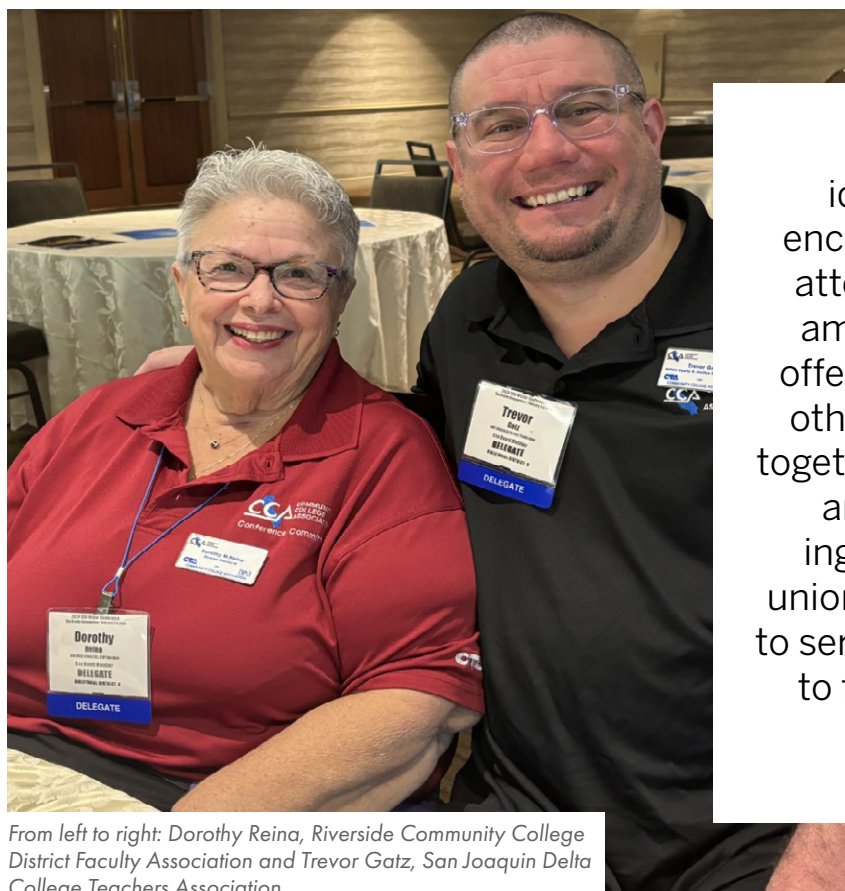
Grievance Academy led by CTA Staff Marianne Reynolds and Justin Arnold



CCA's Winter Conference, attended by 135 delegates and attended by 200 total people, highlighted advocacy in addition to lobbying and contract enforcement issues. Among training sessions ranging from bargaining to organizing for rehire rights and seniority language, the Grievance Academy and the California Leadership Academy (CLA) were also offered this year. CCA also added a Winter Council to the Winter Conference this year, so going forward all three CCA conferences will include a Council session. This year's Grievance Academy was led by CTA staff Marianne Reynolds and Justin Arnold. Members learned the ins and outs of handling grievances on behalf of their chapters. ■



Members of the Rio Hondo College Faculty Association



From left to right: Dorothy Reina, Riverside Community College District Faculty Association and Trevor Gatz, San Joaquin Delta College Teachers Association

"We appreciate chapters identifying, supporting and encouraging member-leaders to attend the Grievance Academy among all that CCA/CTA/NEA offers. Members learn from each other—in addition to staff—and together we build skills, community and solidarity which are key ingredients in maintaining the union movement. We are humbled to serve the cause and look forward to forthcoming opportunities."

—Justin Arnold



**AMBER WALLICK**

San Bernardino Community College  
District Teacher's Association

*“I've learned a whole lot. I've learned about the precision of language, spoken as well as written. And I just want to make sure I'm doing it right. I would like to bring back a real solid procedure that's in writing, so that it's easier for the next person. I really believe in talking to each other and trying to solve issues. And that's very important to me. You know, even if somebody is vastly different from me, all the more reason to try to figure out how you can come to some common ground. So that's a big part of what pushes me. Also, I'm part-time and I feel like it's one way for me to be more involved in the campus community because as a part-timer, you're only there one or two days a week.”*



**TIMOTHY LINEHAN**

College of the Sequoias  
Teachers Association

*“I've had some experience on the ground writing grievances and listening in on meetings, but I wanted to do a better job of it, so I came to get some training and learn what I had to learn. I hope to bring back an understanding of the process and hopefully some excellence in representing faculty and improving our school. For many years, I sat back and just taught philosophy and enjoyed the fruits of other people representing us, seeing the work from afar of what the union does and appreciating it from afar. I finally decided that it's time to participate myself and put in the work.”*



**ELIZABETH WATERBURY**

Shasta College Faculty Association

*“I hope to speak to the board about problems that are evolving with our board of trustees. I intend to inform the negotiators about how the budget is shaping up and I would like to talk to my members about maybe starting a new position of DEI coordinator and manager that's a part of our local, that's a new idea.”*

# REGISTER TODAY FOR THE CCA SPRING CONFERENCE!

Welcome to the

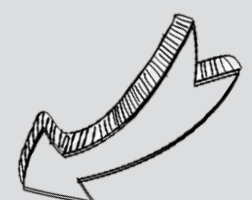
## 2024 CCA SPRING CONFERENCE AND W.H.O. AWARDS!

Hilton Orange County/Costa Mesa Hotel

April 26-28, 2024



If you haven't done so already, please be sure to register for the CCA Spring Conference, which will be held from April 26-28 at the Hilton Orange County/Costa Mesa Hotel by scanning the QR code or visiting [cta.org/event/cca-spring-2024-4-26](https://cta.org/event/cca-spring-2024-4-26). Membership will be the highlight for this conference. CCA will also be highlighting our “We Honor Ours” (WHO) Award winners Saturday night with a plated dinner. This is a special program which honors our own local and state union leaders. CCA will hold the last Council of the academic year as well.





# GOVERNOR'S PROPOSED BUDGET FOR CA COMMUNITY COLLEGES

By CTA Governmental Relations

**T**HE GOVERNOR'S January Budget proposes to provide a total of \$13.6 billion in Prop 98 funding and property taxes for the California Community Colleges (CCC) in 2024-25, an increase of \$574.3 million, or 4.4%, compared to 2023-24. Total funds proposed for the CCC in 2024-25 are \$21.6 billion, which includes withdrawals from state level reserves. However, the Governor will release his revised budget in May with updated revenue projections and updated proposals. The Governor and Legislature are also expected to take "early budget action" this spring to help address the projected budget deficit. Specific spending proposals for the Governor's January Budget for community colleges include:

- **Apportionments** – The budget includes an increase of \$69.1 million in ongoing Prop 98 funding for a 0.76% COLA for Student Centered Funding Formula (SCFF) apportionments and \$29.6 million ongoing Prop 98 funding for 0.5% enrollment growth.
- **CCC Categorical Program COLA** – The Governor's Budget includes an increase of \$9.3 million ongoing Prop 98 to provide a 0.76% COLA for select categorical programs and the Adult Education Program.

- **Prop 98 Reserve Withdrawals** – The Governor's Budget proposes withdrawals of \$235.9 million in 2023-24 and \$486.2 billion in 2024-25 to support ongoing SCFF costs.
- **Nursing Program** – The Governor's Budget proposes an increase of \$60 million one-time Prop 98 funding to expand nursing programs and Bachelor of Science in Nursing partnerships to develop, educate and maintain the next generation of registered nurses through the community college system, subject to future statutory changes.

## STUDENT HOUSING

The Higher Education Student Housing Grant Program was established to provide grants for the CCCs, CSU and UC to construct housing for low-income students. The 2023 Budget Act shifted the Program's prior and planned General Fund support for UC and CSU affordable student housing grants to UC- and CSU-issued revenue bonds. It also reverted prior and planned General Fund support for CCC affordable student housing grants with the intent to develop a statewide lease revenue bond or other statewide financing approach by the 2024 Budget Act to support CCC affordable student housing projects. The Governor's budget signals that

the Administration remains committed to a statewide lease revenue bond approach and is developing a proposal for consideration in the May Revision. In addition, for a limited number of projects that do not currently fit within a statewide lease revenue bond approach, the Administration proposes using resources included in the 2023 budget to support those projects.

Additionally, the Governor's budget proposes suspending funding for the California Student Housing Revolving Loan Fund Program, which includes pulling back \$300 million in one-time General Funds previously intended to be appropriated for the program for each year from 2024-25 to 2028-29 and reverting \$194 million of \$200 million in one-time General Funds that was appropriated in 2023-24.

## UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA (UC) AND CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY (CSU) MAJOR CHANGES

The Governor's Budget proposes a one-time deferral of \$228 million for UC and \$240.2 million for CSU, representing the 2024-25 5% General Fund increase agreed upon pursuant to the Compact. ■

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