



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

# CCA JOINS MARCH IN MARCH IN CALL FOR MORE COMMUNITY COLLEGE FUNDING

## PROTECTIONS FOR STUDENTS WHO ARE IMMIGRANTS, ACADEMIC FREEDOM ALSO AMONG DEMANDS

By Geoffrey Johnson

On Thursday March 12, amid warm sunny skies which matched both their spirit and drive, community college students, faculty and staff from around the state gathered at Sacramento’s Southside Park, then marched to the state capitol to demand increased funding for student basic needs, protections for students who are immigrants and the preservation of academic freedom – at a time when all are under attack.

Ace Acklin-Ricardson of San Bernardino City College got on a bus at midnight so that he could make the Know Your Rights, Dealing with ICE and Student Advocacy trainings starting the following morning. For Ricardson, an African American transgender student struggling to live in a religious household, community college has given him a sense of connection and reason to keep fighting. Still, lack of funding has left him housing insecure. Other students echoed the challenges of affordability and ICE threats.

CCA member faculty from more than 14 districts – from Southwestern College in the South to Shasta in the North – marched and shouted boisterously with students: including CCA Women’s South Director Jacqueline Penhos and CCA Vice President Kashara Moore. An Afro-Latina faculty member at Southwestern College, Penhos spoke of growing up undocumented, as well as her experience as a part-time faculty member with lack of healthcare, asserting that all students and faculty should have it. Moore spoke powerfully in defense of academic freedom and democracy, adding “we’re raising our voices to unite, not with anger, because when one of us rises, we all rise!”



CCA Boardmember Jacqueline Penhos speaks on the steps of the Capitol during the March in March for community college funding.



CCA Vice President Kashara Moore



Penhos and Southwestern College students call on lawmakers for more support.

## WHAT IS THE MARCH IN MARCH?

First held in the late 2000s, March in March is a long-standing California movement where community college students, faculty and advocates come together at the State Capitol to defend access, affordability, and public investment in higher education. Over the years, it has mobilized thousands statewide and remains one of the most visible demonstrations of the power and unity of the California Community Colleges system.



Faculty, students and community rallied and marched to the State Capitol.



CCA Boardmembers Geoffrey Johnson, Jacqueline Penhos and VP Kashara Moore

# CREATING SAFE SPACES:

## MORENO VALLEY PROFESSOR USES CTA GRANT TO INCREASE VISIBILITY

By Jennifer Escobar

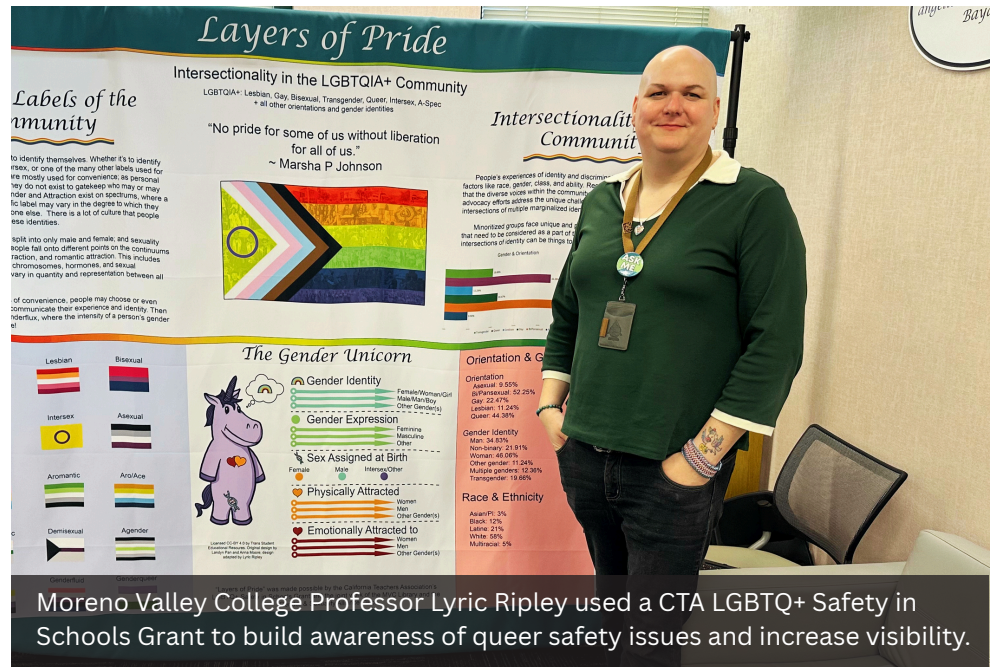
Professor Lyric Ripley, Open Education Librarian at Moreno Valley College and member of the Riverside Community College District Faculty Association, wanted to “increase the awareness of all our different students,” especially “something that would represent intersectionality.” She saw an opportunity in the CTA LGBTQ+ Safety in Schools grant and applied.

Because it is a safety grant, she saw the project as a chance to increase visibility, which “helps to improve safety, as well as just awareness of the safety issues that the queer community faces.”

Starting with the planning stage, Ripley collaborated with different people on campus, starting by talking with others in the library to think through what the project might look like. Upon winning the grant, Ripley reached out to circulation staff, other librarians and students from the Gender and Sexuality Alliance on campus, discussing ideas and returning later for feedback.

Ripley especially appreciated feedback about some of the terminology featured in the project, as language changes quickly and students could offer more insight.

The project comprises two parts. The first is a library display which provides basic information on different types of attraction and gender representation, the various identity flags, and highlights intersectionality



Moreno Valley College Professor Lyric Ripley used a CTA LGBTQ+ Safety in Schools Grant to build awareness of queer safety issues and increase visibility.

data including race, ethnicity, socioeconomic status and disability. The second will be a rotating display that changes over 10 months to identify notable LGBTQIA+ figures each month. In considering who to feature, she reviewed the college’s Student Equity Plan and selected underrepresented demographic groups – Black, Latine, Indigenous, and Asian American & Pacific Islander– to highlight in the forthcoming rotating display. This display will be in the college’s Welcome Center.

Ripley’s advice for those thinking about applying for the LGBTQ+ Safety in Schools grant? As far as grants go, Ripley said “this was extremely easy to apply for, manage and report out.”

CCA members can learn about the LGBTQ+ Safety in Schools Grant on the CTA website ([cta.org](http://cta.org)). The deadline to apply is May 29.

## HEAD OF THE CLASS: COLLEGE OF CANYONS PROFESSOR WINS NATIONAL AWARD

Wendy Brill-Wynkoop, a member of College of the Canyons Faculty Association (COCFA), has been selected to receive the 2026 Travelers Award for Teaching Excellence from the NEA Foundation.

Brill-Wynkoop, a professor of photography and digital media at College of the Canyons in Santa Clarita, is one of 48 public school educators from across the country to be honored. The annual award recognizes excellence in the classroom, leadership in the teaching profession, community engagement, and commitment to expanding opportunities for all through public education.

“Receiving the NEA Travelers Award for Teaching Excellence has prompted me to reflect on my over 30 years of teaching and advocating for the profession,” Brill-Wynkoop said. “It’s thrilling to realize that after all these years, my hard work has made a difference and that my colleagues, particularly my union members who are fighting alongside me, acknowledge the impact I have made.”

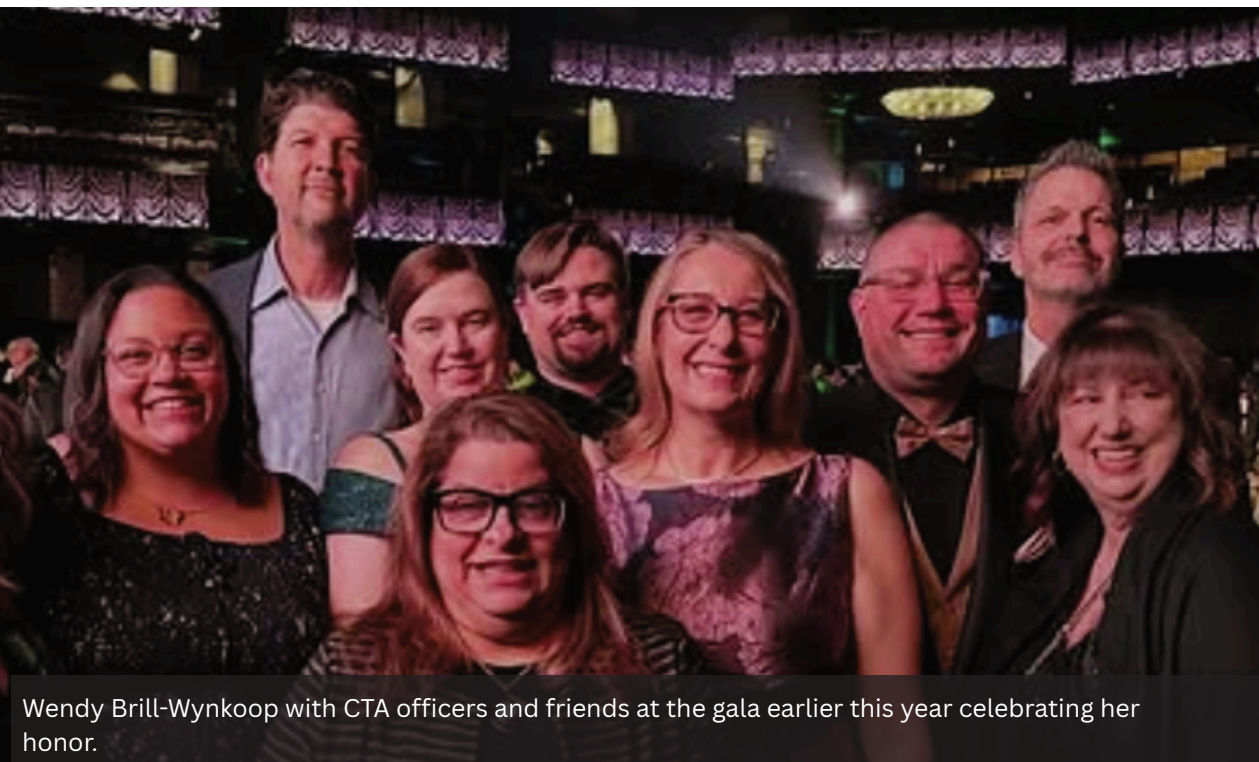
A dedicated CCA member since 1997, Brill-Wynkoop has devoted her career

to both teaching excellence and advocating for educators. She also previously served as COCFA president, where she led contract negotiations that secured salary schedule reform, lecture-lab parity and improved working conditions for faculty.

In the classroom, Brill-Wynkoop is a champion of experiential, student-centered learning. She has built partnerships with institutions such as the Getty Museum, giving students opportunities to learn from master photographers and to exhibit their work at prestigious venues. She founded the Parallax Student Photography Club and has led immersive field-study programs in Death Valley and the Eastern Sierra Nevada, creating impactful learning experiences for diverse students.

Brill-Wynkoop believes the power of teaching lies in guiding students to discover their potential and recognize that they have the power to change the world.

“Witnessing the transformative journey of my students, from who they were when I first met them to who they have become, is more rewarding than anything else I could have done with my life,” she said.



Wendy Brill-Wynkoop with CTA officers and friends at the gala earlier this year celebrating her honor.



Brill-Wynkoop and NEA President Becky Pringle

# PAUSING TO SAY WE HEAR AND BELIEVE THEM



## Greetings CCA members and friends of higher education,

I was going to write about bills making their way through the legislative pipeline, the tremendous March in March event, and our Spring Conference CCA elections, but the breaking news about Cesar Chavez has stolen my thoughts.

This is a time to acknowledge the tremendous harm he did to the women and girls who trusted him, and to laud Ana Murguia, Debra Rojas and Dolores Huerta for the courage to break the silence. Hoping to raise themselves and others out of the dangerous conditions in which they lived and worked, danger within their own community found them. Their dignified commitment to workers' rights has gained the respect of all unionists. We are now reminded of that courage.

They and any others Chavez assaulted cannot have justice—it is too late for that; they can and must have acceptance of the stories they have told.

As civic and educational leaders scramble to address the consequences of Murguia's, Rojas', and Huerta's courageous actions and speech, I hope the women and girls who suffered will tell more of their own stories and offer guidance that will help to bring them a measure of healing.

In Solidarity,  
Jon Ausubel  
CCA President



## LBCC CHI Part-time Faculty Lawsuit Update

By Crystal Huckabee

The class action lawsuit filed by part-time (adjunct) faculty at Long Beach City College challenges compensation practices that limit pay to classroom hours while requiring substantial work outside the classroom. This case is part of a growing statewide conversation about adjunct labor conditions and compensation structures.

### » Key Legal Issue

Part-time (adjunct) faculty are required to perform duties beyond classroom instruction—including grading, course preparation, student communication and administrative tasks—but are not always directly compensated for that time.

### The central legal question:

Must districts compensate adjunct faculty for all hours worked, including required out-of-class duties, under minimum wage laws?

### » Court Findings (So Far)

- The court found that community college districts are not exempt from minimum wage laws.
- Required out-of-class work may qualify as compensable time under California wage law.
- A claim for civil penalties (PAGA) was dismissed due to limits on suing public entities, but core wage claims remain active.
- The ruling is not final and does not yet mandate immediate changes.

### » Current Status

- A proposed \$18-million settlement has been reached, impacting more than 1,400 adjunct faculty over a 6-year period.
- The settlement has been accepted by the courts, with a preliminary hearing scheduled for July 2026.
- If approved, payments could be distributed as early as Fall 2026.

This lawsuit underscores the importance of organizing, contract clarity and proactive bargaining to ensure part-time faculty are fairly compensated for all work performed.

## 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.

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# UTILIZE CCA GRANTS TO HELP BUILD YOUR LOCAL

## For Sierra College FA, CCA grant 'changed everything'

By Judith Star Kreft

One year ago, the Sierra College Faculty Association (SCFA) was in crisis.

There were lawsuits and numerous sudden leadership vacancies. The unit was nearly gutted and there were huge needs. The to-do list was massive: candidate searches, three elections, appointments, training, organizing, member surveys and engagement, website and bank account transfer, negotiations issues, bylaws and standing rules updates, email changes, workload, meetings, etc. Then our local's leadership team was awarded a release time grant from CCA and it changed everything.

Local faculty union units often face periods of crisis—whether due to sudden workload

increases, urgent contract enforcement issues, accreditation pressures or unexpected leadership vacancies. During these moments, the ability of a local chapter to respond quickly and effectively can determine whether faculty voices remain strong and organized. Recognizing these challenges, the California Community College Association provides two key support mechanisms: the Local Chapter Reassigned Time Grant and the Innovative Grant.

The Local Chapter Reassigned Time Grant allows a chapter to secure temporary reassigned time for faculty leaders who must devote significant hours to addressing urgent local issues. This support enables faculty

representatives to focus on negotiations, grievance work, organizing and member communication without sacrificing their instructional responsibilities.

The Innovative Grant, by contrast, encourages creative solutions that strengthen local chapters and faculty engagement. Locals can use these funds to pilot new organizing strategies, develop communication tools, host leadership training, or build collaborative initiatives that improve union capacity.

The grants information is on the CCA website. Be aware that timing can be a relevant factor in the grant process.

## CCA GRANT OPPORTUNITIES



Looking to build your local union power? Check out the CCA website ([cca4us.org](http://cca4us.org)) for more information on grant opportunities.

### 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 members together to build a stronger union. See examples on the CCA website.

### CCA 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).

### 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. Grant Proposals received for the following budget year will be considered pending Council approval at the CCA Spring Council.



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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.

3/2026



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



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- B** **RICARDO AGUILAR, DISTRICT B**  
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Represents: Gavilan CFA, Napa Valley CFA, Sierra CFA  
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**PATRICK MITCHELL, NORTHERN LGBTQ+/ CTA/ABC/PAC AT-LARGE**
- E** **WENDY BRILL-WYNKOOP, DISTRICT E**  
Represents: College of the Canyons FA, Kern CC Chapter, Taft College FA (West Kern), West Hills CFA
- F** **CALEB CASTANEDA, DISTRICT F**  
Represents: Barstow CFA, Copper Mountain CFA, San Bernardino CCD FA, Victor Valley CFA  
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- G** **RUDY RIOS, DISTRICT G**  
Represents: College of the Desert FA, College of the Desert AF, Rio Hondo CFA
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- K** **LORRAINE SLATTERY, DISTRICT K**  
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# NO KINGS



## EDUCATORS JOIN MILLIONS NATIONWIDE

**ON MARCH 28**, educators stood shoulder to shoulder with more than 8 million nationwide across the country who have had enough with the Trump administration's ongoing attacks on democracy, public education and our communities. While Trump and republicans spend billions on another illegal war, our colleges go unfunded and our students have needs that go unmet. CCA leaders and CTA State Council of Education joined a massive rally in Downtown Los Angeles, lifting our voices together to shout that in America, there are No Thrones, No Crowns and No Kings.

"The people have the true power!" said CCA President Jon Ausubel. "All across the country, Americans filled the streets in defense of each other and our democracy – and to say 'no more' to the extremists who have taken control of our federal government."



# UPCOMING EVENTS AND ELECTIONS

## CCA SPRING CONFERENCE

April 24-26

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. Register at [cta.org/conferences](http://cta.org/conferences).

## CTA SUMMER INSTITUTE

July 15-19

Westin Bonaventure, Los Angeles

Spend your summer building union power at CTA's flagship training for a week in Downtown Los Angeles. Multiple strands in a variety of focus areas available. Visit [cta.org/conferences](http://cta.org/conferences) for more details.

## MANY CCA BOARD SEATS UP FOR GRABS IN SPRING ELECTION

An election will be held at the CCA Spring Conference for the following seats on the CCA Board:

Secretary

Treasurer

Director District A

Director District B

Director District D

Director District E

Director District G

Director District I

Director District L

Director District M

LGBTQ+ Director – South

Part-Time Faculty Director – South

BIPOC Equity & Justice Director – South

Women's Rights and Empowerment Director - South



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