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For immediate release

DENVER – Faculty activists working in the Colorado Community College System (CCCS) are extending the donation deadline for a GoFundMe campaign they started in December 2019 to benefit CCCS adjunct faculty members. The American Association of University Professors (AAUP) Colorado Conference launched the campaign to help community college members along the front range who are unpaid between semesters and yet who are nevertheless unable to collect State of Colorado unemployment benefits between semesters per CCCS administration fiat. Accordingly, the so-called “adjunct” faculty (who earn only poverty-level wages teaching the equivalent of full-time course loads or more) have not received a paycheck since early January and won’t see one until mid-February.

Classes for spring semester began Jan. 21, 2020. The adjunct faculty are already on the job. Few people know that 75% of the CCCS faculty are adjunct faculty, even though they teach the lion’s share of the 31,000 courses offered by 13 colleges in the statewide system. They need help with gas and groceries year-round, but even more so until they’ll see the first paycheck of the year. For this reason, the AAUP Colorado Conference is now reaching out to local Chambers of Commerce for donations to the GoFundMe campaign. Local industry partners and community members are natural allies of the community college teachers, since hundreds of business leaders share with 4,665 CCCS adjunct faculty (nearly half the total CCCS workforce) the same goals of delivering workforce-ready education and increasing student success. It’s easy to make a donation by visiting their GoFundMe link at: <https://www.gofundme.com/f/winter-break-leaves-comm-college-adjuncts-broke>

The attached *2020 Adjunct Index* provides further background on the CCCS and answers questions donors may have about the need for the GoFundMe campaign. For further information, contact Caprice Lawless at coloradocaprice@gmail.com or Steve Mumme at Stephen.Mumme@colostate.edu



The 2020 Adjunct Index

AAUP Chapters of the CCCS

Note: This is the fourth in the continuing Adjunct Index series, one of the many research publications of the Colorado Community College System (CCCS) Chapters of the American Association of University Professors (AAUP). The AAUP is the premier professional association advocating for academic freedom, shared governance, faculty rights, and equitable wages in higher education.

The CCCS Pledge to Colorado: **"To a better life, to more successful careers, to the pursuit of happiness"**¹

Number of adjunct faculty teaching in the CCCS on wages below the poverty level in 2020: **4,665**²

CCCS fiscal 2018 revenues as calculated by Moody's: **\$643 million**³

Excess cash flows produced by the CCCS in 2019: **\$16.3 million**⁴

Amount in CCCS reserves: **Approximately \$274 million**⁵

On its scale of 1 to 20 (1 being the highest) Moody's rating of CCCS finances: **4th highest**⁶

Typical reason CCCS admins cite when adjuncts ask for a pay raise: **"CCCS doesn't have any money for that!"**

Current annual salaries, total, 14 CCCS presidents 48 vice-presidents: **\$8.7 million**⁷

Average yearly pay raise, each course taught, 4,665+ CCCS adjunct faculty, 2014-2019: **\$4.80/week**⁸

Average annual salary, CCCS instructors: **Less than \$20K**⁹

Minimum required living wage, 1 adult, no children, Denver County: **\$28,851K**¹⁰

Annual salary, CCCS System President, FRCC President, CCD President, respectively: **\$437K, 244K, 224K**¹¹

Economic impact of CCCS on state of Colorado: **\$6 billion**¹²

Number of full-time faculty teaching in the CCCS, 2020: **1,135**¹¹

Ratio by which CCCS adjunct faculty outnumber full-time faculty: **3 to 1**

Definition of "adjunct": **"something joined or added to another thing but not essentially a part of it"**¹²

Number of equal-pay-for-equal-work bills the AAUP Colo. Conference championed to help CCCS adjuncts:
Two (HB 14-1154 and SB 15-094)

Amount CCCS paid its lobbyists to defeat the two equal-pay-for-equal-work bills: **\$132,000**¹³

CCCS Enrollment, 2008, 2020, respectively: **117,000**¹⁴, **137,000**¹⁵

New minimum annual salary for CU Boulder instructors and senior instructors, respectively:
\$52K, \$60K¹⁶

Reason Univ. of Colo. cites for approving \$10K increase to its non-tenure-track instructors in 2019:
"to recognize the significant contributions of these faculty to the university's teaching mission and student success"¹⁷

References

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- ³ Fichtenbaum, Rudy. “A few facts from the *Colorado Community College System Financial Statements and Independent Auditor’s Reports: Financial Auditor’s Reports Financial Audit Years Ended June 30, 2019 and 2018: Compliance Audit Year Ended June 30, 2019.*” Received by Caprice Lawless 1 Feb., 2020.
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- ⁷ Lytle, Fiona. “Response to Jan. 18, 2020 Colo. Open Records Act Request.” Received by Caprice Lawless, 23 Jan., 2020.
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- ⁹ Mumme, Stephen P. “Instructor Impermanence and the Need for Community College Adjunct Faculty Reform in Colorado.” *Academic Labor: Research and Artistry*, p. 109, Vol. 2, Article 9, 2018. <https://digitalcommons.humboldt.edu/alra/vol2/iss1/9/>
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- ¹² “Nearly \$6 Billion for the State Economy Generated by CCCS Colleges and Their Students.” *Resources: Economic Impact, Colorado Community College System*. <https://www.cccs.edu/resources/institutional-research/economic-impact/> Accessed 1 Feb. 2020.
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- ¹² “Adjunct: Noun.” *Merriam-Webster*. <https://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/adjunct>
- ¹³ Lawless, Caprice. “Requesting a Legislative Audit of the Colorado Community College System.” To Colorado General Assembly Legislative Audit Committee, 2 Sept., 2016.
- ¹⁴ *Colorado Community College: Academic Year 2008-2009 Fact Book*, p. 5. <https://internal.cccs.edu/wp-content/uploads/documents/Fact-Book-AY09.pdf>. Accessed 2 Feb. 2020.
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- ¹⁶ Niedringhaus, Cassa. “CU Boulder Raises Minimum Salary for Instructors, Senior Instructors.” *Boulder Daily Camera*, Feb. 8, 2019. <https://www.dailycamera.com/2019/02/08/cu-boulder-raises-minimum-salary-for-instructors-senior-instructors/>. Accessed 3 Feb. 2020.
- ¹⁷ Niedringhaus, Cassa. “CU Boulder Raises Minimum Salary for Instructors, Senior Instructors.” *Boulder Daily Camera*, Feb. 8, 2019. <https://www.dailycamera.com/2019/02/08/cu-boulder-raises-minimum-salary-for-instructors-senior-instructors/>. Accessed 3 Feb. 2020.

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