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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**



*“Labor Exchange” Host Dennis Creese with the AAUP award and in the KGNU studio.*

## KGNU’s Dennis Creese receives Friend of Higher Education Award from the AAUP

The American Association of University Professors Colorado Conference named KGNU “Labor Exchange” Host Dennis Creese the recipient of its 2020 Friend of Higher Education Award. Creese has interviewed leadership from the Front Range Chapter of the AAUP three times over the past three years. This has provided adjunct faculty an invaluable forum for speaking out on the unjust labor practices of the Colorado Community College System. As a labor activist himself, Creese well understands the psychological injuries that workers like adjunct faculty endure. He understands that the CCCS faculty majority of adjuncts are underpaid, lack due process rights, and have no clear path toward secure, full-time employment in their chosen careers. When some of Colorado’s most disadvantaged students are taught by an

army of weary adjunct faculty scraping by on wages below the poverty level, they see firsthand how pursuit of higher education might not be the path to their dreams after all. Through his research and interview techniques, Creese helps “Labor Exchange” listeners understand how difficult working conditions for faculty can have an adverse effect on student learning.

The AAUP has been fighting for equal-pay-for-equal-work for CCCS adjunct faculty for seven years now. Through his broadcast interviews with AAUP leaders he has helped them shape that success. The group has made a tiny bit of progress recently, as they have secured sick leave for adjunct faculty and partial unemployment when departments cut their classes. “For his contribution to that progress, and with profuse thanks, we confer upon Creese the 2020 Friend of Higher Education Award,” said Colo. Conf. Co-President Steve Mumme. “His is a valuable voice enabling our Conference to advance public understanding of the critical need to strengthen public investment in the community college faculty that deliver greater economic opportunity and professional advancement to Coloradoans statewide.”



*Some members of the AAUP Colo. Conf. Executive Committee presented Dennis Creese with the award outside the KGNU Studios in Boulder, Colo. on Oct. 14. From left: Marki LeCompte, Don Eron, Dennis Creese, Melinda Myrick, and Mark DuCharme. (All wore masks, following orders from Colo. Gov. Jared Polis to stem the spread of COVID-19.)*

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