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**For Immediate Release**

## **AAUP & AFT unite to push for fair compensation throughout Colorado higher education**

In spite of an epic effort by the American Association of University Professors (AAUP) and the American Federation of Teachers (AFT) to include higher education in the historic 2022 Public Employee Collective Bargaining Act, lawmakers cut higher education and K-12 workers from it.

The setback makes the recent affiliation between the [AAUP](#) and the [AFT](#) even more important. Now, the 44,000 member AAUP and the 1.7 million-member AFT will work hand in hand pushing for fair compensation, to insist that faculty and administration share governance of higher education, and to defend academic freedom.

That push is critical, as already approximately [35% of college teachers](#) are burned out, *Fortune* reported in June. The next month, an [Inside Higher Ed survey](#) showed that more than half of higher education workers plan to leave their jobs. The dissatisfaction with teaching in K12, on the same trend, led Denver Public Schools to send to its teachers this fall 8.7% pay increase, and increased its starting pay for teachers to \$50K. The school boards in Jefferson Count, Mapleton, and Westminster followed suit. K12 districts recognize their teachers are struggling with Colorado's 8.2% inflation rate, and how each household spent, on average, [\\$821 more](#) to get by than they did in July 2021.

While school districts see the writing on the wall about teacher burnout and exodus of talent, Colorado's higher education administrators seem to be laughing it off as graffiti. Their success in cutting Colorado higher education from SB22-230 seems to be taken as license, now, to further exploit. Colorado State University is [looking for a new president](#) who will focus more on compensation and students. CSU Pueblo President Timothy Mottet was unapologetic in his video explaining how faculty "who met performance evaluations" might see [a tiny 4% pay raise](#). Adjuncts at Front Range Community College and Community College of Denver saw over the summer 9% and 14% pay raises, respectively. While a 9% raise on an average course-wage of \$2,500 is only \$15/week, at least it was progress. Now, however, the Colorado Community College System has begun increasing class sizes from 24 to 30; a 25% increase in workload. The move renders the 9% "pay raise" a 16% cut in pay, and the 14% "pay raise" an 11% cut in pay.

Because too many of Colorado's college and university faculty "raises" are not keeping pace with inflation, because too many are experiencing essentially pay cuts, and because faculty in too many instances neglect their roles as public intellectuals for fear of losing their jobs, Colorado can expect far more activism from the thousands of otherwise quiet and bookish academics. The AAUP & the AFT are now united to right this injustice.

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