Wednesday Wins

Hi All,

I want to take a moment to share another win for AFT 1521. Last weekend, under the recommendation of CFT President Jeff Freitas, Dr. Jessica Saint Paul was appointed to a vacant seat of CFT Vice President and was unanimously confirmed by the CFT Executive Council. Dr. Saint Paul has been a strong advocate for Adjuncts, faculty rights, Student Debt Relief, and Faculty retirement benefits. Her work has been nationally recognized and she is respected by those who have worked with her. Her voice will be a strong advocate for community college faculty and students. Join me in congratulating her on her new position.

Other good news from CFT is that SB 632 has been picked up by Senator Jesse Arreguin and is moving through the State Senate. This bill originated with me pushing it through CFT and Assembly Member Patrick Ahrens passed it through the State Assembly. We wanted to address the rising cost of college by making community college free again. It originated with no minimum unit load. SB 632 would expand the college promise to part-time students taking at least 9 units. In our district, only about 10% of our students take advantage of the current college promise, which is for full-time students. As you know, many of our students work part-time or full-time and can't take a full course load. This will allow students to attend college for free while carrying 9 units. While the unit load is not ideal, it will expand this opportunity to more students and even encourage others to enroll. This is also a win for our faculty, as it can increase enrollment, leading to more classes for us to teach.

Today's wins not only show the influence of CFT but also the respect CFT has for AFT 1521, as they have seated two Vice Presidents from our guild. Working together, we can ensure future wins for our students, faculty, and community.

In Unity,
A. James McKeever PhD
President, AFT 1521 Faculty Guild
CFT Vice President

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