



Cabrillo College Federation of Teachers

AFT Local 4400

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

EVENT DATE: May 1st, 6:00 p.m. - 8 p.m.

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CABRILLO FACULTY AND STUDENTS TO HOLD OPEN FORUM TO KEEP THE COMMUNITY IN COMMUNITY COLLEGES

- WHAT:** Open Forum: Keep the Community in Community College!
- WHEN:** May 1st, 6:00 p.m. - 8 p.m
- WHERE:** Horticulture Building Room 5005, Cabrillo College
- WHO:** CCFT Director Maya Bendotoff, Student Senate Vice-President Carter Frost, Visual and Performing Arts Program Co-Chair and Gallery Director Tobin Keller, and Faculty Senate President Michael Mangin will overview recent repeatability regulations that are eroding access to community colleges. Michelle Williams, Executive Director of the Santa Cruz County Arts Council, will speak to Cabrillo's impact in the local community. Students, faculty, and community members will share their experiences of restricted access through a 3 minute microphone.

The Cabrillo College Federation of Teachers (CCFT) has organized an Open Forum to inform the community about how new regulations on repeating classes severely limit student access and success, and about what can be done to repeal the regulations. Campus leaders Maya Bendotoff (CCFT Director), Carter Frost (Student Senate Vice-President), Tobin Keller (Visual and Performing Arts Program Co-Chair, Gallery Director, and Instructor), and Michael Mangin (Faculty Senate President and History Instructor) will provide an overview of recent changes that have affected quality and access to public education, with an emphasis on how repeatability restrictions are affecting Cabrillo College students. Michelle Williams, Executive Director of the Santa Cruz County Arts Council, will discuss the far-reaching cultural and economic impacts of Cabrillo on the art community in the county. The event will elevate the voices of a wide array of students, faculty, and community members on the effects of repeatability regulations through a three minute microphone. We will discuss what we can do to resist these changes and reclaim full access to quality public education. The event is free and open to all. It will be filmed and footage will be used to create an educational video on this important topic. Refreshments will be served. Please join us for an informative and inspiring evening!

Background

Recent regulations barring students from repeating community college classes have eroded educational options and access to quality education for Californians—particularly students in the visual and performing arts and kinesiology as well as lifelong learners and those in areas with changing technology or curriculum. These regulations were approved by the Board of Governors of California Community Colleges at a time of deep budget cuts and rationing of education in an attempt to focus on basic skills, certificate, and transfer programs (the regulations were approved in the summer of 2012 and became effective fall 2013). In November of 2012, California voters passed Prop 30, a ballot initiative created

by the California Federation of Teachers (CFT). Prop 30 stopped the devastating cuts to education and demonstrated voter support for maintaining educational programs.

The Cabrillo College Federation of Teachers and Faculty Senate both believe that the current regulations are only hindering student access and success, and that the time for such regulations (if ever there was one), has passed. Cabrillo faculty are leading a statewide dialogue on revisiting this issue to change the regulations. View the following link on our website for more information:

<http://ccftcabrillo.org/news/issues/>.