

Dear Friend and Leader:

As you probably already know, for more than a year the Graduate Teaching Faculty Fellows (GTFF), Local 3544 of the American Federation of Teachers have been engaged in a fight for a fair contract at the University of Oregon (UO) in Eugene. The GTFF represents over a thousand Graduate Teaching and Research Assistants.

Unfortunately, UO's administration insists on not paying a basic living wage for many members of the GTFF. Furthermore, the GTFF is fighting to win benefits most of us take for granted – Dental Insurance and Family and Medical Leave. It's unconscionable that in our day and age that an instructor with an advanced degree – or any employee for that matter – be denied such basic benefits and the right to provide for oneself and one's family. For more information, please follow this link: <http://gtff3544.net/>

Recently, the GTFF issued their strike notice setting a strike date of December 2, 2014. Supporting them are the union for UO's classified support professionals (SEIU Local 503), the local representing UO Full-time and Part-time faculty (AFT Local 3571) and UO's student government (ASOU). OEA and the OEA Community College Council have signified support as well.

GTFF teaching assistants and research assistants need your help TODAY to settle a fair contract and avoid a strike. The success of GTFF in getting a fair contract will be reflected in our efforts to win fairness and respect at LCC for years to come.

Please join with your fellow educators in ensuring that University of Oregon teaching and research assistants have the tools, academic freedom and resources needed to support student learning and the right to dignity and respect for their accomplishments in education.

What You Can Do to Help Get GTFF Teaching and Research Assistants a Fair Contract:

- Show Your Solidarity: "Like" the GTFF Facebook page to show your support and keep updated. <https://www.facebook.com/GTFF3544/info?tab=overview>
- Sign the Petition: Make your voice heard and urging the University of Oregon settle a fair contract today! <http://gtff3544.net/>
- Send a letter of Support from your Local: Find copies of the OEA letter of support, as well as those from other labor unions. <http://gtff3544.net/2014-bargaining-letters-of-support/>. Send your Association's letter to the GTFF here: GTFF President Joe Henry: president@gtff.net and GTFF staff person Amber Cooper: amber@gtff.net.

Please circulate this message with your members as soon as possible. A draft message very similar to this one is included for your convenience.

Please extend every consideration to the members of GTFF as they fight to preserve quality public higher education. This has been our fight as well. Their success will be our success.

Thank you for everything you do for our students, and for helping to build a strong voice for Community College educators and classified support professionals.

In Solidarity,

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