

Hi Everyone-

Thank you for taking the time to read this. My name is Quintin Powell and I am running for the office of CFCE Secretary. The reason I am running is simple; I want to do what I can to help our union be successful in advancing the concerns of the classified employees. I feel too few of us, myself included, have been actively engaged in supporting the CFCE. It certainly is understandable: It is difficult for people to work 40+ hours a week, spend quality time with their family, invest in themselves with personal time to pursue interests and goals, and then find time to support the union. For many folks, there simply aren't enough hours in the day. I am grateful for the people who do find the time and energy to put in helping the membership achieve the goals of equity, fair treatment, and opportunities for growth and success. The position of Secretary is currently vacant, but there are two of us running for the position and that is a good thing. It is encouraging to see more people recognizing the value of our union and working to make it stronger.

I am one of those fortunate few who can devote time and energy to the CFCE. I have been a supporter of the CFCE since 1999, which is when I first became a contract employee. In just this past year, I have been able to devote a greater amount of time to the union and I currently serve on the CFCE Elections Committee, which required hours of personal time to support both the convention delegate election and the current officers election. I give my time willingly because I believe in a strong union. My father was active in his union when I was growing up, and my mother worked for the State of California. So I grew up in an environment that was both pro-union and pro-public employee with insights into both the private and public sector. I strongly believe that collective bargaining is not only a right, it is the best path for working families to achieve their dreams. Yet it is disappointing to see unions today are largely maligned and ignored by many people, even those who would benefit the most from collective bargaining. I believe we need to change negative perceptions and encourage greater participation.

The official duties of the office of union secretary are fairly straight-forward: Ensure meetings are effectively organized, maintain records and minutes, review requirements of governing documents, and handle official communications and correspondence. I am sure that just about any member of the union would be able to competently handle these tasks. I would like to do much more. My hope is to leverage this position to further the goals and interests of the CFCE. In coordination with the President, Treasurer, site Vice-Presidents, and VPs at-large, I believe we can create more effective communication and collaboration within the CFCE, the district, and the communities being served by our campuses. I believe each union office holder is obligated to work towards greater membership engagement, increased outreach programs, and heightened awareness and appreciation for the CFCE, which go beyond the immediate requirements of any office. This will, in turn, provide a greater willingness on the part of the district to do right by us, the hardworking classified employees of the Coast Community College District.

I look forward to the opportunity to do more for our community of classified employees. I hope you will consider voting for me. Again, thank you for reading this.