

EdSource

To: CNPA
From: EdSource
Re: In-Depth Reporting
Date: Feb. 6, 2023

To The Judges,

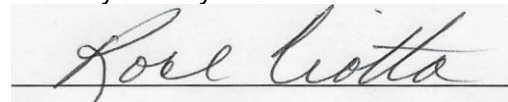
In February, EdSource published the three part-investigative series [Gig by Gig at California Community Colleges](#), an exhaustively reported examination of the working conditions of adjunct faculty in the state's sprawling 115-campus community-college system. Peele went deep on how these part-time academics fashion full-time work out of part-time teaching gigs. A key part of the reporting focused on the widely varying [health care coverage](#) and varying working conditions offered to these part-timers across the state.

Peele and Daniel J. Willis collected salary data from the state's 73 college districts, pulled data from faculty contracts in each district, and examined the widely disparate benefits given adjuncts despite the money for those benefits coming from a single source - the state. This was reporting rooted in the best of our profession, examining unequal treatment and inequalities doled out by locally elected trustees. The reportage showed one consistency. Those trustees, serving in part-time elected jobs, received state-funded executive-level health benefits at no cost while either limiting, or denying coverage to part-time academics. Peele is a digger and he dug deeply into buried trustee-approved policies that allowed trustees to take those benefits. He then examined every faculty union contract in the system to show how poor the adjunct's medical coverage was district by district. The series also examined the inability of part-timers to win full-time academic jobs and the stress of living gig-by-gig by [examining the career of Paul Baltimore](#), an adjunct history professor who took his own life in 2021.

The stories got attention. Gov. Gavin Newsom included \$200 million in his fiscal 2022-2023 budget to increase funding for adjunct health care - money that will have to be doled out by local districts in contract negotiations. In separate lawsuits, empowered [adjuncts sued two community college districts](#) over work they claimed they were not paid for. [The state auditor also began probing](#) how money given to local districts to help adjuncts land full-time teaching jobs was being spent.

The project included a [roundtable discussion](#), [podcast](#) and [video](#).

Thank you for your consideration.



Rose Ciotta
Investigations and Projects Editor
EdSource