



Cuesta College Federation of Teachers

Newsletter

Advocacy • Activism • Professionalism



AFT local 04909

In this Issue: *Instructional Designer *Tech Resources *Negotiations *Stipends *Elections *ESL

MEET INSTRUCTIONAL DESIGNER CYNTHIA WILSHUSEN



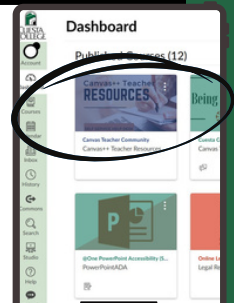
“ One thing that drove me to get tech savvy is not being afraid to explore and try something new. You will never learn anything new if you don't try something new. You might surprise yourself and find a new way to do something that saves you time and energy. Just give it a try and be patient. ”

Cynthia has been working at Cuesta for 26 years! She began as a long term substitute in the Computer Applications and Office Administration department, then moved onto teaching part-time in Business. In 2016, she was hired as Cuesta's first Instructional Designer. Having spent most of her life in Paso Robles, she is a graduate of both Cuesta and Cal Poly. She has four children and likes to spend her free time on her ranch/farmland in the North County, where she enjoys gardening, tending to animals, and hiking.

She's had her own bookkeeping business since early 1996, and though she has trained her clients since starting the full-time position, she still occasionally gets calls from them for help. In addition to providing workshops to faculty, serving on multiple committees, and heading up the OEI badging and DE training courses, she frequently attends conferences to stay informed of state initiatives. She enjoys meeting people at different institutions and staying current on educational technology.

The Canvas Teacher Community course is the most up-to-date one-stop tech resource for faculty. All faculty are automatically enrolled when they are hired, so this resource should be on your Canvas dashboard for easy access. Make sure to scroll all the way down to the bottom of the first page to see the useful links for faculty! If you don't have the course on your dashboard, email Cynthia to get access at cwilshus@cuesta.edu.

Did You Know?



TECH TIPS & RESOURCES



For Tech Support related to employee applications, go to *MyCuesta - Faculty Applications - Faculty Quick Links - Tech Support*. There you can make a specific support request, get tips on how to use various applications, and find out information about training.



For student Tech Support- call (805) 546-3113 or email support@cuesta.edu.



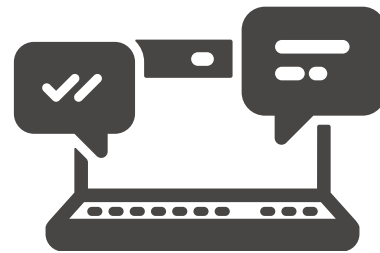
Contact the IT department for help with employee applications, and get in touch with Cynthia Wilshusen cwilshus@cuesta.edu for questions and support related to instructional technology.



Faculty have access to Adobe Creative Cloud, where you can use Adobe Pro, Photoshop, Spark, and Premier. All tools available to faculty are listed on this [Canvas Page](#).



Google Gemini and Google Notebook LM (Language Model) are available to all faculty. You can log into your Cuesta Google account with your Cuesta username@my.cuesta.edu. Gemini can be added to any Canvas course.



Google Gemini is Google's AI assistant and Notebook LM is a specialized AI research tool that can analyze and summarize your uploaded documents and create various educational tools and graphics.

THE ATTIC (ACTIVE TEACHING, TECHNOLOGY, INNOVATION CENTER)

The ATTIC is located in the library on the San Luis Obispo campus. It is in room 3219, the classroom next to the children's reading corner. It is a dedicated faculty space that allows access to an open lab setting where faculty can utilize resources, collaborate, and receive training and get help with technology.

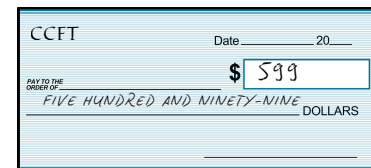
Open lab: This is time for you to work on your own course with support. You can bring grading you want to work through, a course item you'd like to improve, or new content you want to incorporate, or simply drop in with specific questions. You will get help troubleshooting, refining materials, and making quick upgrades using effective design and accessibility best practices. You can stay the whole time or drop in for just a few minutes.



[The Training Schedule](#)

PART-TIME FACULTY STIPENDS

CCFT has opportunities for part-time faculty to engage in union activities and college work and earn a stipend of \$599 each semester for various roles.



- PT faculty who represent their divisions on the Council of Representatives will receive a prorated stipend amount of \$599 per semester depending on the number of meetings they participate in.
- CCFT will provide a \$599 stipend to any PT faculty (who are CCFT members) who serve as a CCFT representative on district-wide hiring committees and on the Elections Committee.
- PT faculty are compensated by the district for the EEO training if they are on a hiring committee; check in with your dean.
- The positions of Part-Time Faculty Chair, CoR Co-Chair, and COPE Chair also are eligible for stipends.

CCFT LEADERSHIP & ELECTIONS

The CCFT Elections Committee reviewed the nominations for the open officer positions on the Executive Board (EB). Because there was only one nomination for each position, the Elections Committee officially declared the election ratified by acclamation on March 13, 2026. These EB officers will serve a three-year term from July 2026-2029:



CCFT Vice-President - Matthew Davis

CCFT Treasurer - Neil Higgins

Part-Time Faculty Committee Chair - Galadriel Bree Highhouse

Thank you to the newly elected officers and to the outgoing Vice President and Lead Negotiator, Mike Mogull, for your service! We also appreciate the election committee members Rachael Barnett, Kerry Bailey, and Niki Santisteven for their work this semester managing both the EB officer nominations and the upcoming TA Ratification election.

ESL FACULTY MAINTAIN EQUITABLE LOADS

The ESL program was able to preserve parity in teaching load thanks to CCFT's advocacy and insistence on making data-based decisions. Although the district wanted to change the nature of the ESL program and increase faculty teaching hours, they withdrew this request

and are moving forward with hiring a full-time ESL faculty member this spring. This will be the first new tenure track hire since 2006. The addition of this faculty member will be invaluable to the ESL program, students, and current faculty, especially at the North County Campus, where the need is the greatest and the position will be based. The ESL program is grateful for CCFT's continuous support.

Current ESL Faculty at NCC

