

## **Professors in Poverty**

Recent data demonstrate that faculty across the country are unable to make ends meet. Despite ever-rising tuition, nearly a third of part-time faculty are living below or near poverty.

### **Below Poverty**<sup>1</sup>

- Part-time faculty are more likely to be in poverty than the average Americans, ranging from 9% in Nevada to 43% in Maine.
- 1 in 5 part-time faculty members live below the poverty line.
  - 22% of part-time faculty live below the poverty line, while 14.5% of Americans live in poverty (2013).
- 1 in 10 part-time faculty live below the poverty line in 44 states and the District of Columbia.
- 1 in 5 part-time faculty live below the poverty line in 31 states and the District of Columbia.
- 1 in 4 part-time faculty live below the poverty line in 16 states.

### **Near or Below Poverty**

- 31% of part-time faculty have an income that is less than 150% of the federal poverty level.
  - 14% of all faculty (including full-time) live below or near the poverty line.
- The percentage of part-time faculty living near or below the poverty line ranges from 14% in New Jersey to 51% in Utah.

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<sup>1</sup> Source: Faculty poverty data was taken from the Integrated Public Use Microdata Series (IPUMS-USA) Minnesota Population Center, University of Minnesota: <https://usa.ipums.org/usa/cite.shtml>. The data is based on the American Community Survey 5-year Sample 2008-2012. The data for market states was retrieved 3/6/2015; other states' data was retrieved 3/18/2015.

- 1 in 5 part-time faculty live near or below the poverty line in 42 states and the District of Columbia.
- 1 in 3 part-time faculty live near or below the poverty line in 22 states.
- 10 percent of all faculty (part-time and full-time) live near or below poverty in 42 states and the District of Columbia.

Taxpayers are subsidizing low-wage education employers who don't pay livable wages.

### **Enrollment in Public Assistance<sup>2</sup>**

- 1 in 4 families of part-time faculty are enrolled in one or more public assistance programs (25% of part-time faculty).
  - 7% of families of part-time faculty members are enrolled in Medicaid and 6% are enrolled in Children's Health Insurance Program.
  - 7% of families of part-time faculty members receive food stamp benefits.
  - 1 in 5 families of part-time faculty receive Earned Income Tax Credit payments (20% of part-time faculty).
- Families of close to 100,000 part-time faculty members are enrolled in public assistance programs.
- The high participation rate among families of part-time faculty members can be attributed to low wages, lack of benefits and lack of job security.

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<sup>2</sup> Source: UC Berkeley Center for Labor Research and Education calculations from the following data: 2008–2012 March Current Population Survey, 2007-2011 American Community Survey, U.S. Department of Education Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System, and program administrative data. All costs are reported in 2011 dollars. For further detail on methodology see: [http://laborcenter.berkeley.edu/pdf/2013/fast\\_food\\_poverty\\_wages.pdf](http://laborcenter.berkeley.edu/pdf/2013/fast_food_poverty_wages.pdf)

## **Cost of Public Assistance Programs**

- The taxpayer cost of public assistance for families of part-time faculty is nearly half billion per year (\$468 million).
- More than half of these costs, or a total of \$274 million per year, is spent on Medicaid and the Children's Health Insurance Program.
- Due to low earnings, families of part-time faculty receive an annual total of \$53 million in food stamp benefits, \$146 million in Earned Income Tax Credit payments and \$3 million a year for Temporary Assistance for Needy Families benefits.

We are worth more! Join us on April 15th to Fight for \$15K.