

NORTHWEST LABOR PRESS

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PORTLAND, OREGON

MAY 7, 2021

May 18 Special Election Endorsements of the NW Oregon Labor Council

BEAVERTON CITY COUNCIL

Councilor, Position 1: **ASHLEY HARTMEIER-PRIGG**

CENTENNIAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

School Board, Position 6, at-large: **ERICA FULLER**

DAVID DOUGLAS SCHOOL DISTRICT

School Board, Position 3: **DEIAN SALAZAR**

MULTNOMAH EDUCATION DISTRICT

Director, Position 3, Zone 2: **MARY BOTKIN**

NORTH CLACKAMAS SCHOOL DISTRICT

School Board, Position 6: **LARS BEST**

PORTLAND COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Board of Directors, Zone 1: **LAURIE CREMONA WAGNER**

Board of Directors, Zone 4: **SERIN BUSSELL**

Board of Directors, Zone 7: **REIKO MIA WILLIAMS**

PORTLAND PUBLIC SCHOOLS

School Board, Zone 4: **PASTOR HERMAN GREENE**

PORT OF COLUMBIA COUNTY

Commissioner, Position 5: **BRIAN FAWCETT**

REYNOLDS SCHOOL DISTRICT

School Board, Position 4: **CAYLE TERN**

**Ballots must be submitted
by 8 p.m. on May 18, 2021**

Authorized and paid for by the Northwest Oregon Labor Council,
9955 SE Washington, St., Suite 305, Portland, OR 97216

OIT strike over

Faculty at the Oregon Institute of Technology (OIT) were the last at any Oregon public university to unionize, launching Oregon Tech-American Association of University Professors (OT-AAUP) in 2018. On April 26, 2021—with no union contract 555 days after bargaining began—they became the first faculty at any Oregon public university to strike.

Eight days later, on May 4, university administrators came to terms on a tentative agreement that union negotiators say provides fair wages, reasonable workload, and secure benefits.

The biggest roadblock had been a management proposal to tie all raises to merit (as determined by administrators), and allocate a fixed pot of money for those raises, placing faculty in competition. In the end, management agreed to guaranteed increases of 2% to 3% each year through the life of the contract, including a 2% raise retroactive to last year. Faculty salaries at OIT are under \$70,000 on average, the union says.

OIT is a polytechnic university, teaching highly specialized courses on subjects like nuclear medicine and molecular imaging. It has campuses in Klamath Falls and Wilsonville. So OT-AAUP members were shocked when the school brought on a company called Focus EduVation to provide replacement instructors for online classes. That didn't go over well with students, either. Some



Photo by Emma Morris

students confronted instructors about being strike-breakers, and reported that instructors told them they'd been deceived, told they were COVID replacements, not striker replacements.

Support for the strike was overwhelming. The vote to authorize it was 92%. Daily picket lines were well-attended and spirited. Teamsters refused to cross picket lines to pick up garbage or deliver packages. On April 30, organized contingents of student supporters entered administration buildings in Klamath Falls and Wilsonville to chant demands for a fair contract.

Faculty returned to work May 5 (after this issue went to press) and will vote on the agreement in the coming days. Once ratified, it will be in place through June 30, 2025.

"We hope now that the healing can begin," said union spokesperson Kari Lundgren. —DM



Union accuses Kaiser of understaffing. Members of Oregon Federation of Nurses and Health Professionals (OFNHP) held an informational picket April 27 outside Kaiser Sunnyside Medical Center to protest understaffing among emergency room nurses. The union says understaffing is leading to unacceptably high turnover at in Sunnyside's Emergency Department — 40 nurses (57%) have left in the last year. Members have begun posting "grave stones" in an employee locker room for each coworker that has left. Under the terms of a longstanding partnership agreement, Kaiser is supposed to work with the union to address concerns like that, but OFNHP spokesperson Shane Burley says local management has been canceling meetings and making changes without union members' input. OFNHP has begun negotiations over a new contract as part of a national coalition of unions known as the Alliance of Healthcare Unions.



**A UNION GUIDE TO
OREGON'S MAY 18
SPECIAL ELECTION** See Page 6