

Patricia Burke

Manchester Community College Adjunct Faculty

Vice President of Part-Timers

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Statement:

My mission is working with disenfranchised people to make their voices heard. From working with disabled people, to working with the part-timers of the 4cs, my focus has been to encourage, inspire and fight for the rights of others.

Struggle often emanates from the class divisions between the owner and the worker in society. I promote egalitarian decision making in the environments in which I work and live.

I strive to help create a more just and open society, and to work effectively with the 4cs to represent our contingent workers.

Education:

B.A. University of Connecticut

East European and Slavic Studies, Russian

Certificate in Russian language and history

Leningrad State University, USSR

M.A. The New School for Social Research, NYC

Cultural Anthropology

Professional Experience and Activities:

1982 - 1994

Owned two small businesses:

Green's Pharmacy, Dover NJ

Burke Hosford Consulting, Morristown NJ

Managed both businesses over 12 years. Consulting company contracted with software engineers and technical writers to large IT companies (AT&T and Bell Laboratories in NJ). Worked as contractor on federal military projects. Required a Secret Clearance.

1994 – 2001

Director, Case Management, Genesis Center, Manchester CT

Oversee program that provides services (housing, food, clothing, therapy, medication management) to clients with severe and persistent psychiatric illnesses. Grant funded by the state of CT.

2001 – current

Gilead Community Services Inc., Middletown CT

Director, Psychosocial / Vocational Rehabilitation Center

Manage 91 clients with supervision of 8 staff. Skilled with assessments and evaluations. Contributed to Agency by writing job descriptions covering over 200 people, write grants for federal and state funding. Logistics of a large program, legislative advocacy ongoing, testifying before committees, television and print media interviews, Letters to the Editor. Skilled at mobilizing large groups of people in support of their ideals. Plan and manage major Agency events. Write Business Plans for new programs. Manage Agency contracts for client businesses. Represent Agency on multiple advocacy organizations, including the Keep The Promise Campaign, Connecticut Transformation Network, State of CT Consortium of Psychosocial Rehabilitation Centers, the Recovery Support Learning Collaborative (Yale U.). Highly skilled in therapeutic techniques such as Motivational Interviewing and Cognitive Behavioral Therapy.

4cs Union Activities:

2014 – 2019

Chair, Part-Timers, Manchester Community College and MCC Delegate

As a member of the MCC Chapter, as Part-Timers Chair, I have attended 90% of Delegate Assembly Meetings. I have also facilitated situations at MCC regarding office space for adjunct faculty, met with the MCC HR department to facilitate Union grievances for several MCC adjunct faculty, and created a required form for Division Directors to use when preparing to assign course sections. In 2018, attended and participated in the COCAL (Coalition of Contingent Academic Labor) Conference, which was 2 days of training on the situation with adjunct faculty in the US, Canada and Mexico. Educated on a broad overview of the issues facing higher education in the US.

In 2017, attended and presented at Washington DC SEIU Conference on organizing for adjunct faculty (with adjunct faculty across the country). Information learned at these Conferences brought back to the Delegate Assembly for review, and to inform my advocacy work within the DA. In 2017 and 2018, gave two presentations at 4cs Membership Conferences – both on the opportunity for state and federal benefits for contingent workers, resulting in more adjunct faculty gaining access to state/federal income and multiple programs based on income.

In 2017, 2018 and 2019, attended legislative actions at the state Capitol in support of part-time workers in the Community College system, wrote testimony to Appropriations Committee regarding the plight of part-timers.

2018 – 2019

Chair of the Part-Timers Committee at the Delegate Assembly

Called meetings prior to the Delegate Assembly meetings in Hartford. Set agendas for the meeting with the two Vice Presidents of Part-Timers, and other members who attended. Created detailed Minutes for the membership of the Committee, Action Steps and timeframes. Participated in discussions ongoing through email regarding the issues facing adjunct faculty members, and best strategies to attack those issues. Successfully mobilized several adjunct faculty members to write Testimony for Hearings at the Legislative Office Building in Hartford.