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OUCG Research Project: Privatization and Precarity in Postsecondary Education in Ontario - Update

To: Presidents Only
From: Harvey Bischof, President

For Action

The Ontario University and College Coalition (OUCG) is a coalition of unions that represent faculty, staff and students that work and study in Ontario colleges and universities. Last fall, OUCG funded and hired Erika Shaker and Robin Shaban from the Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives (CCPA) to research and create a report on Privatization and Precarity in Postsecondary Education in Ontario. Erika and Robin have been collecting data from individual units of the university and college sector as well as from Statistics Canada and other sources.

As part of their research project, Erika and Robin have started a blog series at <http://behindthenumbers.ca/2017/09/28/higher-learning-lower-earning> to roll out the data and research they have unearthed so far. As they gather and analyze more data, subsequent information will be posted. This is not intended to replace a final report; rather Erika and Robin have committed to providing a written report to the OUCG partners when their research is complete.

The first blog post of the series entitled "*Higher learning, lower earning? The state of employment on Ontario campuses*" provides both a historic summary of government funding as a proportion of university and college revenue, as well as comparing salary and benefits of different job classes in the university and college sector. The article sets up future posts as it begins to explore the rise of precarious work in the sector.

Bargaining Units may wish to post links of the blog series to their followers and the broader community on their own social media platforms to generate interest and exposure to the growing issue of increased precarity and corporatization in Ontario's postsecondary institutions. OSSTF/FEESO has also posted the blog series on both Twitter and Facebook.

Please contact Joe Hirschegger at joe.hirschegger@osstf.ca if you require further information.

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