October 13, 2026

Dear [redacted],

Bellevue College is using its public and tuition dollars to hire a big-dollar union busting law firm, one Starbucks and Amazon has used, to fight its own faculty. This is alarming, particularly at a time when the College is closing programs and claiming to have a budget deficit.

Faculty have been working without a contract since September 1, refusing to accept the administration's proposals to weaken our voice and weaken our union. Since then, administrators have failed to come to the bargaining table in good faith, unilaterally implementing their proposals eliminating access to professional development while we were still bargaining it. They don't seem to care whether we reach a tentative agreement; likely they're trying to wait out the union so they can impose what they want. Under the leadership team of Provost Jess Clark, this administration is working from a well-worn union buster's playbook.

This is alarming for the students and faculty of Bellevue College and it's also alarming for students and faculty at any of Washington's public Community and Technical colleges. This is a new threat to higher education, bringing aggressive anti-union and anti-worker attacks onto campus that ultimately harm the quality of teaching and learning. If Bellevue College administrators silence our union, we will soon see these tactics on other campuses.

Public employers should not behave like Amazon or Starbucks, and public colleges should not be silencing faculty and making boardroom decisions without classroom experience.

Because you as a legislator are funding this institution through the state budget, we feel it's important that you realize Provost Jess Clark is misappropriating funds to pay for this toxic anti-faculty attorney.

Sincerely,

Lindsay J. Haney, President

Bellevue College Association of Higher Education
3000 Landerholm Cir SE, A123, Bellevue, WA 98007