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THUMBS UP, THUMBS DOWN



The region's community college faculty members and professional employees work hard to provide a sound educational foundation to students who want to transfer to a four-year college - or who need skills for a better paying job.

Isn't it time the faculty at Springfield Technical Community College, Holyoke and Greenfield Community Colleges were rewarded in better pay themselves?

The union at STCC has been without a pay raise since 2002 and is negotiating a new contract with the Massachu-

setts Community College Council, which represents the STCC union and others, and the State Board of Higher Education.

We join employees at STCC in applauding their president, Ira Rubenzahl, and the STCC board of directors for endorsing a resolution in support of the employees.

The board cited concern about morale among the union's members and the "critical" role they play in the college's educational mission in voting to support the pay raises. We join the employees in saying, "Thanks, boss."