

**Testimony of Karen Miller, Professor
LaGuardia Community College
Before the New York City Council Committee on
Higher Education**

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I have been teaching at LaGuardia Community College since Fall 2004. This is my thirteenth year on a full-time faculty line at CUNY. I love my job. I love working with students and I am also committed to my research. I am at a community college, where my workload is 27 hours at year. I came in with 12 hours of junior faculty released time that I used in my first three years, and have gotten some course release through my involvement in the Writing Across the Curriculum program and other activities both at LaGuardia, at the Graduate Center, and through support for my research. I teach between two and four classes a term, depending on my other commitments. For me, a reduction of three credit hours annually (which would translate into one fewer class per year) would allow me to be more effective at my job because it would ease some of the tensions between my commitments.

The one-on-one work that I do with my students is incredibly rewarding. It is far more possible to find the time for that kind of work when I am teaching a lighter load. For example, I regularly teach honors courses at LaGuardia and each year, I have a handful of students with whom I meet to talk about transfer, discuss their school choices, and work through their statements of purpose. I also write letters of recommendation for those students and am absolutely thrilled when they get into the schools of their choice. This work is rewarding, but it is time consuming, and it's something that a lighter load would allow me to do without cutting into my other commitments.

I am equally committed to my research and regularly apply to the PSC-CUNY grant program to receive course release and support for travel. This program has been absolutely invaluable to me, but I am tenured now, and am only even eligible to apply two of every three years. A permanent course reduction would be an incredible for my research.

Thank you so much for your time!