

Graduate Center Faculty to Chancellor: Fight to Fund CUNY and our Contract!

November 2015
Chancellor James B. Milliken
City University of New York

Dear Chancellor Milliken,

We central line faculty of the Graduate Center of the City University of New York are asking that you stand for excellence at CUNY by fighting for adequate state funding for the University and by offering its employees a fair and equitable contract.

We hold positions at the Graduate Center because we believe in its stated mission of "...continued excellence in arts and sciences graduate education, research, and public programming." We are committed to public education in the fullest sense, both as a reflection of our place in the world and as an indication of who we credential into that world. We take seriously the institution's commitment to the people of the city of New York and to scholars and students from around the globe. We are tremendously appreciative of the Graduate Center as a supportive base for our interdisciplinary research and our teaching. We are proud to be part of creating and sustaining a great public university system in one of the world's most dynamic and diverse cities. We endorse both CUNY's and the Graduate Center's commitment to educating the whole people, providing opportunities to New York City's workers, immigrants, and striving high school graduates, a commitment that is inspiring in a time of economic polarization, inequality, sustained racial injustice and precarious economic futures.

However, we see both the Graduate Center and all of CUNY as being at a crossroads. Without both adequate state funding and an equitable contract, we cannot do justice to our shared mission of excellence, nor can we attract the quality faculty, staff, graduate students and administrators necessary to that mission. For these reasons we call on you, Chancellor Milliken, to secure the funding necessary for a fair contract that ensures that we can continue to fulfill CUNY's mission for years to come.

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