

Testimony of Linda A. Pelc
Professional Staff Congress / CUNY
TELC, LaGuardia Community College.

City University of New York
Board Public and Borough Hearing

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My name is Linda A. Pelc. This fall would have been my 35th year of teaching at TELC, LaGuardia Community College.

I had already been teaching for 10 years before I came to LaGuardia in 1986. But it was at LaGuardia that I found the level of commitment and passion that would define my career – a career that has given me an enormous sense of fulfillment. At LaGuardia, I found commitment in service. Although as an adjunct I was only paid for contact hours, I served on curriculum committees and search committees, mentored new teachers and gave presentations at national and international conferences.

My passion motivated me to pursue two higher degrees, namely a second Master's and a Ph.D., and to keep a constant and consistent connection to my students both in the classroom – before, during and after class - and through email. To further my professional development, I have taught in teacher-training programs at New York University and the New School and I have worked as a teacher trainer/staff developer at the New York City Department of Education. Given my status as one of the most senior faculty at TELC one who has contributed to the development of the program and has mentored junior faculty throughout the years, I was stunned to learn that in Fall 2020, for the first time in three and a half decades at LaGuardia, I was not given any classes in TELC. In Fall 2019, 35 adjuncts were teaching 2 classes each at TELC. Now in fall 2020, 14 adjuncts are teaching only 1 class each. TELC is still a program, but 63% of the adjuncts who until recently worked there have no classes.

Shannon Lund, Associate Director of Recruitment at LaGuardia, has recently said in his interview with President Adams, "It [LaGuardia] is not a community college; it's a college for the community." TELC Adjunct Lecturers developed an English language program for the community that was thriving. For decades TELC faculty, like myself, have consistently demonstrated our dedication to sustaining a program in continuing education for the community and it is the contribution of these Adjunct Lecturers that will continue to make TELC the vital lifeline needed by the community that we have so proudly and passionately served.

Please support community-enriching programs such as TELC. Please keep CUNY adjuncts who have contributed so broadly, deeply and richly to communities throughout the city working and serving.