

Good Evening

My name is Susan DiRaimo RN, NP

I have been an Adjunct Lecturer at CCNY and Lehman College for many years. I currently have a 3 year contract at Lehman College.

I teach in the English Department. I have my degree in Language and Literature.

I also became a Registered Nurse and Nurse Practitioner because I wanted to make sure I would have at least one job that was secure. I always liked working with the sick since high school to make them better. I worked as a Visiting Nurse for Visiting Nurse Service as a Per Diem with no benefits for 25 years.

I had to work as a nurse on the weekends to support myself and my family because Adjunct wages were never enough. My preferred job was always to teach writing and literature.

Adjuncts need to have a Full-Time job with Full Time benefits. The Two Tier System at CUNY needs to end.

I am an Adjunct with a Full-Time teaching load with terrible pay.

I make 45,000 dollars a year after teaching for many years.

I write recommendations for students, I advise students. I even have to counsel students. I mark papers many hours a day.

I have gone to contract negotiations and they are very distressing. CUNY Management needs to agree to give Adjuncts the pay , job security , benefits and full time lines that Adjuncts deserve.

I am also speaking in honor of Ryan Carson a dedicated activist who worked at CCNY with the New York Public Interest Group and got stabbed to death in an unprovoked attack .

Ryan would be here because he worked on a petition from 5000 students that called for full funding of CUNY that would make the New Deal for CUNY a reality.

Ryan also worked hard to have no more tuition increases and to work to get tuition reversed. The petition discussed how students are food insecure and their well being is at an all time low. The petition said we demand that the state invest in higher education. All that was in the 2021 petition is true today.

“CUNY is the economic engine of the city. Investing in CUNY will ensure that New York City will fully recover from the pandemic’s economic crisis” “...Over the last 12 months New York’s wealthiest residents grew their wealth by over 150 billion dollars. New York must tax the wealthiest residents and invest in public institutions.”

My students at Lehman College tell me daily how hard their lives are. They work in grocery stores and restaurants after class to help their families pay the rent. They say they do not have much time to study. I always say to the Board bring back the days of No Tuition. Many of you went to CUNY for free.

The Board of Trustees must work harder to stop this underfunding of CUNY.

