

Testimony of Frank Munoz, Assistant to HEO

Before the Board of Trustees of the City University of New York

Concerning the University Budget Request for FY 2015-2016 as it

Relates to the PSC-CUNY Collective Bargaining Agreement

(Calendar Item 3.F.)

24 November, 2014

My name is Frank Munoz. I am an Assistant to HEO at the Bronx Educational Opportunity Center. The Educational Opportunity Centers in the City of New York serve the City's economically and academically disadvantaged populations. While the EOCs are funded by the New York State Legislature through SUNY, they are locally administered by CUNY. Since their inception, in 1966, the EOCs in NYC have served thousands of New Yorkers. We are the front line education and service-providers to many "almost-forgotten" NYC residents who have dreams and aspirations to improve their lives. At the Bronx EOC, we provide programs in High School Equivalency, College Prep., Adult Basic Education, and vocational training for Master Barber, Medical Assistant, Security Guard, Microsoft Certification, Direct Support Professional and Emergency Medical Technician.

We help these New Yorkers by providing tuition-free academic and vocational preparation along with support services to facilitate their successful transition into market-relevant career paths. To that end, we help our students obtain their high school equivalency diplomas, enter CUNY colleges, obtain meaningful employment, receive Microsoft Certifications or simply improve their reading, writing or math skills.

The EOCs currently employ over 135 faculty and professional staff. On many occasions, our staff and faculty have to take on responsibilities beyond their duties, simply because of the lack of funding for much needed services and programs. On other occasions, the EOCs have had to

cut back on staff or programs when operating costs go up but State funding is not increased. On many occasions, we have to work under not-so-perfect working conditions.

To reiterate what my colleague from the Brooklyn EOC stated, instructional staff members at the EOCs want to maintain parity in salary and benefits with CUNY employees in equivalent titles. We need a new contract now!