

**Testimony of Sara Holtzschue, Assistant Adjunct Professor
Before the Board of Trustees of the City University of New York**

**Concerning Funding for Adjunct Health Insurance
In the CUNY Budget Request (Calendar Item 3.A.)**

21 November, 2011

My name is Sara Holtzschue, and I am an Adjunct Assistant Professor at both Bronx Community College and Kingsborough Community College. I have a B.A. from Barnard College at Columbia University and a M.M. from New England Conservatory of Music. In 1993, the City University of New York (CUNY) awarded me PhD Equivalency status, recognizing that my work outside the classroom is as substantial a contribution to my field as if I had completed a Ph.D. program. I am grateful for the honor.

Between the two colleges, I have taught courses in jazz, western and 20th Century music history, music theory, ear training, songwriting, voice, keyboard, guitar, composition, jazz workshop, and modern humanities. The humanities course is part of CUNY's College Now program, which allows me to work with potential CUNY students in their high schools, a position I enjoy more each year.

I couldn't be a happier member of the CUNY community. I love my work, I love my students, and I love my colleagues. I am also able to maintain an active performing schedule, and continue to compose music regularly. My work outside CUNY's classrooms continues to make me an invaluable asset to the university, as I am active in a number of different genres of new music being made and performed in New York City. I write for and perform with some of the greatest musicians the city has to offer, keeping my professional standing vigorous and allowing for the real world experience of being a working artist. What this experience brings to my students cannot be underestimated.

As a member of the faculty, my work continues to be a critical part of our students' success. According to the Federal Government's President's Committee on the Arts and Humanities report published in May, 2011, students who participate in fine arts education are:

- ✓ Four times more likely to be recognized for academic achievement.
- ✓ Three times more likely to be elected to class office in their schools.
- ✓ Four times more likely to participate in math and science initiatives.
- ✓ Three times more likely to attend classes regularly.
- ✓ Four times more likely to receive citations for writing.

There is irrefutable evidence that the work I and my colleagues are doing with our students helps them in ways that extend far beyond our classrooms.

I respectfully ask that the Trustees advocate aggressively for a final State budget for CUNY that includes funding for adjunct health insurance. I can assure you that without this benefit, I would

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not be able to be the active and committed member of the CUNY family that I am and hope to continue to be.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions. Thank you very much for your time.