

**Testimony of Bonnie Lucas, Adjunct Lecturer
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

I have been teaching in the Art Department at City College as an Adjunct Lecturer for 15 years. I have been fortunate to get two classes a semester (except for one semester), so for about 14 years have had health insurance paid for by City University of New York (CUNY). I am 61 years old, and single, and will have to wait another four years to get on Medicare. I am an artist and "freelance" teacher, and live in a 400 square foot apartment in Little Italy. I have worked as a visiting artist in the NYC public schools since 1998.

I have contributed so much to the City College community over the past 15 years. I calculated that I have taught over 1,000 students at City College. In June of 2011, MSNBC.com made a four minute video about my work as a teacher and an artist. It included text describing my life as well as a slide show. A recent show of my collages was reviewed on four internet sites, as well as in the current issue of Artnews Magazine. And the November 2011 issue of the Wellesley Alumnae Magazine includes a profile of my work as a teacher and an artist.

If I continue teaching two classes a semester in 2012, I will gross approximately \$17,000 for the year. If I lose insurance, I will have to purchase a private policy that would cost many thousands of dollars year, and would mean a very significant pay cut—a pay cut that I cannot afford.

Please, CUNY Board of Trustees, advocate aggressively for funding for adjunct health care. Please make and keep it a top budget priority.

Thank you.
Bonnie Lucas