



NATIONAL COUNCIL FOR HIGHER EDUCATION

July 21, 2010

Curtis M. Keyes, Jr. M.A.
Founder of the United Adjunct Faculty Association at East-West University
EWUadjuncts@gmail.com

Dear Professor Keyes,

On behalf of the National Council for Higher Education, the higher education arm of the nation's largest education union, the National Education Association, I am writing to express the strong support NCHE offers to the United Adjunct Faculty Association and the Illinois Education Association. NCHE stands with you as you battle for the legitimate rights of the contingent faculty at East-West University. Your position tells the nation that faculty and staff in higher education will not stand idly by and watch institutions gut the protections of federal and state law and professional responsibility.

NCHE advocates for higher education interests within NEA. NEA Higher Education represents over 200,000 faculty and staff at colleges and universities around the country, and we strongly believe all higher education professionals enjoy the right to organize and bargain collectively should they so choose. Preventing the exercise of such rights violates federal law, as well as the professional rights of educators.

Dennis Van Roekel, President of the NEA, has already written Chancellor Mohammed Wasiullah Khan protesting his actions, and calling for the reinstatement for faculty members unfairly dismissed; the return to a professional hiring policy; and a general respect for faculty rights.

We want to congratulate you and your colleagues for the stirring actions you have already taken – the mere fact of an organizing drive has already led to significant raises for your potential members. At the same time, I want you to know that the members of NCHE stand with the Illinois Education Association and the United Adjunct Faculty Association at East-West University in your future endeavors.

Sincerely Yours,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "James F. Rice". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

James Rice
President, National Council for Higher Education, NEA

cc: Ken Swanson, President, Illinois Education Association
Dennis Van Roekel, President, National Education Association
NCHE Executive Committee