



1201 16th St., N.W. | Washington, DC 20036 | Phone: (202) 833-4000

Dennis Van Roekel
President

Lily Eskelsen
Vice President

Rebecca S. Pringle
Secretary-Treasurer

John Stocks
Executive Director

November 14, 2011

Lillian Taiz
President, California Faculty Association
5933 W. Century Boulevard, Suite 220
Los Angeles CA 90045-5461
ltaiz@calfac.org

Dear Lillian,

On behalf of your 3.2 million colleagues, I want to salute you and offer you our support for your strike this Thursday, November 17. A decision to strike is never easy, but I know that sometimes, when attempts to reason don't succeed, we must stand together and stand up for our rights. I respect and commend your determination to hold the California State University administration to a standard of transparency and accountability.

Colleges and universities exist to provide education for the students and that should serve to motivate our efforts. It is stunning to see that over the last year, tuition for students has risen 23 percent, yet students are unable to get into the classes they need to graduate in a timely manner. Equally shocking is the fact that the CSU administration is trying to turn back on modest and collectively bargained pay increases for the faculty, while increasing both the number and the pay of administrators.

It is time for the administration to realize it exists to provide education for the students, not a bureaucracy for the preservation of administrators. NEA is behind you! Stay strong and united—and know that in solidarity you can accomplish anything.

Sincerely,

Dennis Van Roekel
President, National Education Association

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