

It's Time to Bring Forth Awareness

By: Melissa Ung

The first ever National Adjunct Walkout Day occurred on Wednesday, February 26, 2015. All across the country, there were various temporary teachers and instructors who walked out of their institutions and/or held rallies, protests and talks.

Students, and most people actually, don't really know what an adjunct is. Adjuncts are those who are, in easy terms, teaching temps. They do not have a set salary, and they don't have a guaranteed time of how long they will have their job. They are not typically talked about in school, and adjuncts don't typically introduce themselves to students as adjuncts so it makes the population even more unaware of their situation.

Teachers are beginning to feel as if they are being treated more and more unfairly with how much the cost of college is raising. It makes them weary of what their futures can hold and whether or not they can hold a stable lifestyle.

Student Patricia Eustaquio gave her opinion on her thoughts of what she thought it would be like to be an adjunct once she discovered what an adjunct was.

"Now that I know what an adjunct is, I think it's unfair that teachers and instructors don't have a set salary or job frame within their teaching job as an adjunct. Not knowing how long you will last at a job is nerve-racking, and I don't think I'd be able to handle it. But ultimately, I could see it in a good light if needed. People who aren't full time professors or instructors have more time to dedicate to students since they are not invested in research. They are more focused on teaching to help a student to succeed rather than to be focused on tenure. That's how I see it."

National Adjunct Day was not heavily advertised or televised. In most places, there were not big, major walkouts that occurred or a dramatic protest that could draw attention on a national television level. On quite a few campus though, there was attention brought there because of their size of rallies and protests. On social media, there were shout-outs to walk-out participants from congressional members. So there was some noticeable attention brought, but not enough to the standard of where the whole nation is aware of what an adjunct is,

Junior Amy Viernes is a pre-nursing major and has had a couple of instructors who turned out to be adjuncts. She had no idea that National Adjunct Day was occurring or that it was even a thing.

“I think it’s good to raise awareness for issues that people have no idea about. I am slightly aware of what an adjunct was, but I didn’t think too much about it; I didn’t think it was that big of an issue. With the prices of tuition going up to attend a university for a student, it would make sense that a temp would get nervous about whether or not that money will be going towards their salary or towards someone who is already a full-time professor.”

With National Adjunct Walkout Day happening for the first time this year, who knows what’s planned for the future and for what awareness will be brought to adjuncts at various universities across the nation.