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PHILIP F. CALDERONE, ESQ.
DEPUTY COUNTY EXECUTIVE

July 18, 2014

Dr. Carolyn Stefano
President
College of Saint Rose
432 Western Avenue
Albany, NY 12203

Dear Dr. Stefano,

We are writing regarding recent efforts of adjunct faculty towards forming a union with SEIU/Adjunct Action to ensure that all faculty, students and employees have a voice on campus. We want to relay our support for the process of deciding whether or not to unionize and were pleased to learn that the College has taken a similar stance.

Adjuncts across New York State and beyond have successfully formed unions with Adjunct Action/SEIU, most recently at Northeastern University in Boston and Howard University in Washington, D.C. Adjunct professors constitute a majority of the instructional faculty at private colleges which is a shift which began approximately fifteen years ago. Our understanding is that the College of Saint Rose adjunct professors constitute a majority of faculty, on a contingent basis. They do so with no guarantee that they will be offered an opportunity to teach the semesters that follow.

We have been told that these adjunct professors are not provided the option of benefits including medical, reimbursement for tuition and continuing education and some do not have office space which limits student meetings outside of the classroom. Finally, wages of adjunct faculty members at the College of Saint Rose are among the lowest on campus.

The College of Saint Rose provides opportunities which improve the quality of life in our community. In speaking to a few adjunct professors who desire to remain in this profession, they are concerned they will face significant challenges. The unintended consequence of this may have an adverse impact on growing and retaining talented scholars in the area.

I fully support the efforts of the adjunct professors at the College of Saint Rose. The College of Saint Rose adds great value to our community with a commitment to maintain the highest standards. Allowing this group a free and fair election continues that commitment.

Please do not hesitate to contact my office if we can be of any assistance.

Sincerely,

Daniel P. McCoy
Albany County Executive