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## **Boston Adjunct Faculty from 15 Schools Build Support for Joining Adjunct Action/SEIU at Friday Symposium**

*New Study Finds that Adjuncts Often Cannot Afford Basic Necessities, Home Ownership*

BOSTON – After Tufts University adjunct faculty voted to join Adjunct Action/SEIU last month, adjunct faculty from 15 Boston area colleges and universities met to build on the momentum they've created to win a voice in their profession and to reverse the trend of low pay, few benefits and little job security.

"In one semester, adjunct faculty, coming together, have raised the profile of serious issues facing higher education, and set goals to improve our profession in Boston and across the country," said Northeastern University instructor Bill Shimer. "Collective action makes this possible."

Part-time and non-tenure track faculty are now the majority of faculty at our colleges and universities and their numbers continue to increase. At the same time, revenues and tuition have increased steadily over the last two decades while spending on instruction has declined – and it's adjuncts and their students who are suffering as a result.

A new study released at Friday's meeting explores how difficult it is for an adjunct instructor in Boston to afford basic necessities like housing, health care and food.

The report called the *High Cost of Adjunct Living: Boston*, finds that 67 percent or nearly 15,000 faculty members in the Boston area were not on the tenure track in 2011. The median pay per course in New England was \$3,750 for master's level courses at private not-for-profit institutions and \$5,225 for doctoral level courses at private not-for-profit institutions. This means an adjunct teaching 12 courses a year—an extraordinary course load—may have an annual income of just \$45,000 which is far below the 17 to 24 classes a year an instructor must teach to afford a median-priced home and utilities in Boston.

In addition to Boston adjunct faculty union organizing efforts, part-time instructors at the University of the District of Columbia in Washington, D.C. and University of LaVerne and Whittier College in southern California filed to hold a union election with the National Labor Relations Board this fall. Together, adjuncts from coast-to-coast are building support to form their union with SEIU, and creating a movement to address the crisis in higher education and the declining standards that endanger the profession.

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*Adjunct Action is a project of the Service Employees International Union (SEIU), the nation's largest and fastest growing union and home to over 18,000 unionized college and university faculty who have won improvements in pay, job security, evaluation processes, and access to retirement benefits.*

[www.adjunctaction.org](http://www.adjunctaction.org)