



# HUNTER COLLEGE DISORIENTATION RESIST AND MULTIPLY

**Now** is the time to come together to fight for the rights of students to a quality public education, and to defend the jobs, pay and benefits of teachers and other workers. Education should be guaranteed from childhood to college, and students should not have to take on massive amounts of debt in order to afford it.

**Resist And Multiply** is a newly formed organization that seeks radical and transformative change in our society. We organize against capitalism, patriarchy, racism, ableism, homophobia, colonialism, imperialism and oppression in all its forms. We envision a free CUNY, run and operated by the community. It's time to give up on the politicians: they've gotten us nowhere so far. Only our collective action has the capacity to produce change. What we do today, will create the conditions of tomorrow.

## October 7<sup>th</sup>: The lines are drawn

**Everything is not alright.** On October 7<sup>th</sup> students and workers in New York and across the country will protest the attacks on public education. Students in California are planning to strike. October 7th will kick off a month long global wave of action for educational rights. Like the late Howard Zinn once said, "You can't be neutral on a moving train."

Let's stop neoliberalism in its tracks.

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Justin Hudson, 18, student of Hunter College High addressed the graduating class of 2010 in the auditorium of Hunter College this year:

"If you truly believe that the demographics of Hunter represent the distribution of intelligence in this city," he said, "then you must believe that the Upper West Side, Bayside and Flushing are intrinsically more intelligent than the South Bronx, Bedford-Stuyvesant and Washington Heights. And I refuse to accept that."

(Justin received a standing ovation from his teachers and peers, but President Raab, who is also the president of Hunter College, remained seated.)



**Q.** Why is it that during the greatest economic collapse since the great depression, when people need the most help, there are so many attacks on public education, and on the public sector, in general?

**A.** When a crisis occurs, whether its in New Orleans, Haiti, or across all of America, politicians and capitalists move quickly to push through unpopular reforms.

The economic crisis is being used to further entrench institutionalized racism.



**CUNY and students, in general, have a long history of struggle.**

**A few examples:**

**April 22, 1969-** Black, Latino, and SEEK (program for economically disadvantaged students who do not meet the standard CUNY academic criteria) students commence the *Open Admissions Strike*.

**March 25, 1976-** The beginning of a 20-day takeover of Hostos Community College by students, faculty and South Bronx community members to save the school from closure (under the organizations of Save Hostos Committee and the Community Coalition to Save Hostos).

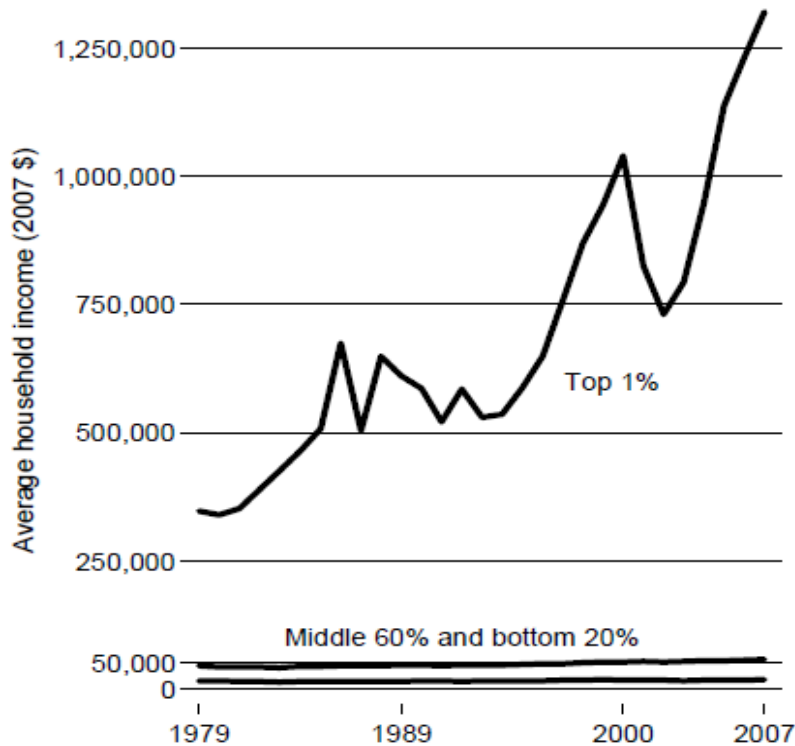
**April 8<sup>th</sup>, 1991-** Students at City College occupied the North Academic Complex (NAC) at 5:30 in the morning. Next morning, students at Hunter College had occupied the East Building. At Bronx Community College, Colston Hall was taken over. The actions continued to spread throughout CUNY campuses, ultimately 15 of them, and 2 SUNY campuses, Purchase and Stonybrook.

**May 1<sup>st</sup>, 1991-** Occupiers had left most campuses except the NAC building. Students and community leaders entered into negotiations with CCNY President Halston, which resulted in amnesty for the students. On May 2<sup>nd</sup>, occupiers handed over the NAC building and shortly after the state legislature passed a budget that reduced the tuition increase from \$500 to \$300 and restored a significant portion of the proposed cuts.

**Recently:** During the last months of 2009, there were a series of demonstrations and occupations in California against budget cuts. The March 4th National Day of Action to Defend Education followed with protests in California and across the country, including Hunter. In April students at the University of Puerto Rico won a huge victory against budget cuts and privatization after a two month occupation of their university.

With the economic crisis and everything, a lot of us really seem to be getting a crappy deal. Meanwhile...

Inequality rising: inflation-adjusted household incomes, 1979-2007



Note: Inflation-adjusted posttransfer-posttax incomes. The data are averages within each group. Incomes in 1979 and 2007: \$15,500 and \$17,500 for the bottom 20%; \$44,000 and \$57,000 for the middle 60%; \$350,000 and \$1,300,000 for the top 1%. The years listed on the horizontal axis are business-cycle peaks.

Source: Lane Kenworthy, using data from the Congressional Budget Office, [www.cbo.gov/publications/collections/collections.cfm?collect=13](http://www.cbo.gov/publications/collections/collections.cfm?collect=13).

...the money's gotta go somewhere, right?

## facts:

- Since 2003, tuition has increased at CUNY and SUNY, 44% and 46% respectively.
- Since 2009 more than \$200 million has been cut from the CUNY system.
- Services at Hunter have been cut—students have only 1/4th the amounts of free printing credits as they did last semester.
- President Raab recently took a raise that put her salary at \$254,652 at the same time that budget cuts were being implemented and tuition was being raised.
- In 2007, 87% of those in the highest-paid professorial title, distinguished professor, at CUNY were white.
- Despite assurances by Mayor Bloomberg and his handpicked Panel on Educational Policy New York City scores on high stakes standardized tests fell by 20% this year.
- For high-school students 75% of white students and 82% of Asian students met the state standard in math, as compared to 46% of Hispanic students and 40% of black students
- **62% of Obama's 2011 proposed federal budget is set to be spent on war and homeland security. Only 6% is reserved for spending on health, and 4% on education.**
- As of May, 2010 there were 6 job seekers for every job.



## What's up with the 2 million dollar turnstiles?

Last semester the Dean of Public Safety claimed that a survey revealed that the women of Hunter would feel safer if there were turnstiles on campus. This was used as justification for their installation.

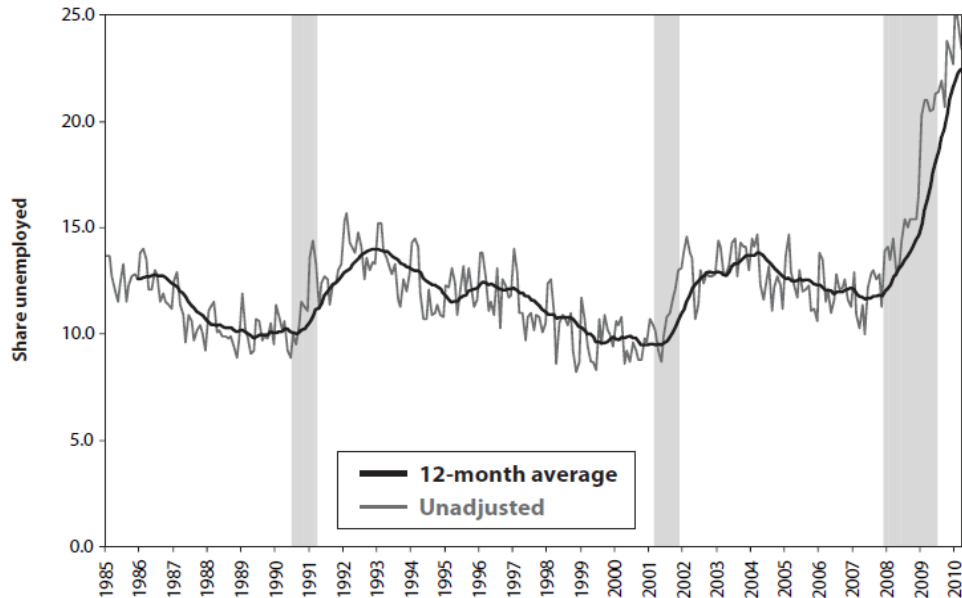
### But does the Hunter Administration really care about women?

- The Defend Hunter Childcare campaign has been working tirelessly to save classroom 209 from being taken away by the administration. If they got their way there would be 28% less space, among other cutbacks, for childcare. VP Arvavianen explained to the parents of Hunter that “childcare is a luxury.” The battle has gone all the way to the NYS Supreme Court, with a court date set for Sept 30th.
- There is no clear avenue for students to file complaints about incidents of sexual harassment at Hunter. The sexual harassment panel appears primarily to exist for faculty and staff, and there is no student representation. We know of one case of sexual harassment that has gone months without any action being taken. If any students have had similar experiences, or have experienced sexual harassment and would like support, please get in touch with members of Resist and Multiply (contact information on the back page).

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## Why is access to higher education so important?

Unemployment rate of high school graduates 16–24 not enrolled in school.



While access to higher education is becoming more exclusive, it is getting harder and harder to get a job without it.

## K-12 is under Attack, too!

(and its called Race to the Top)



## What is race to the top?

Race to the Top, which was implemented by President Obama and Arne Duncan in 2009, provides federal funding to state schools if those states meet certain criteria. The criteria, which include linking teacher performance to test scores, and promoting charter schools, seem innocuous at first, but are actually part of an effort to weaken teacher unions, move towards privatization, and place greater importance on standardized tests, which favor students from privileged backgrounds.