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NCHE E Letter

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September 2007

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CONTINGENT ACADEMIC WORKER

Contingent academic work is increasing throughout public higher education. The report, "The NEA and Contingent Academic Workers in Higher Education: NBI 2004-60 Action Plan" (217k, 46 pp) is a comprehensive plan of action developed "to secure for contingent academic workers throughout public higher education the rights, benefits and protections that full-time tenure track workers currently enjoy." The elements of the plan include recommendations for research, organizing, political advocacy, collective bargaining, leadership development and capacity building, and communications. For more information, contact highered@nea.org or call 202-822-7162.

Check out "The NEA and Contingent Academic Workers in Higher Education: NBI 2004-60 Action Plan" at <http://www2.nea.org/he/leaders/images/contingentplan.pdf>

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HIGHER EDUCATION REAUTHORIZATION

The reauthorization of the Higher Education Act passed the Senate on July 24, 2007. It was sent to the House and, as of early September, is awaiting a vote. Status of the HEA can be found at <http://www.govtrack>.

[us/congress/bill.xpd?bill=s110-1642](http://www.congress/bill.xpd?bill=s110-1642)

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ACADEMIC FREEDOM

A paper presented at the annual meeting of the American Sociological Association paints a threat to academic freedom greater than during the McCarthy era. Threats cited include harm to research, rejection of speakers, restrictions on faculty rights and limits to faculty input. <http://www.insidehighered.com/news/2007/08/15/freedom>

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UNIVERSITY OF PHOENIX FRAUD CASE

The University of Phoenix faces trial on fraud charges after losing an attempt to dismiss the case. A federal judge denied the settlement. According to an LA Times article “the case stems from allegations that the school violated federal rules by offering incentives to employees, including higher salaries and more benefits, based on the number of students they enrolled.” http://www.latimes.com/news/local/la-me-false21aug21,0,5667111_story

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COLLEGE ACCESS FOR THE WORKING POOR

A recent report discusses obstacles faced by low-income workers and youth from low-income families who attend or want to attend college. http://www.ihep.org/Pubs/PDF/College_Access_for_the_Working_Poor_2007_Report.pdf

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2008 HIGHER EDUCATION CONFERENCE

The 2008 Higher Education Conference will be a joint NEA / AFT conference, to be held at the Washington Hilton Hotel in Washington, D. C., March 28-30, with pre-conference events March 26-28. <http://www2.nea.org/he/conf.html>

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NCHE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE APPOINTMENT

Consistent with the NCHE Constitution, the Executive Committee has appointed Cecil Canton, CA, to fill the vacant, unexpired term for the

ethnic minority at-large seat on the NCHE Executive Committee. He is Professor of Criminal Justice at California State University, Sacramento. We look forward to working with Cecil.

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