

LOCAL 372

NYC BOARD OF EDUCATION EMPLOYEES
DISTRICT COUNCIL 37 AFSCME AFL-CIO

Santos Crespo, President

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Contact: Mickey Melendez
Assistant to the President
(212) 815-1372

Local 372 Holds Jobs & Support Services Fair for Laid off Workers

On October 20th Local 372 held a job and support service fair for over 600 school support staff who were laid-off on October 7th by the NYC Department of Education (DOE). Various agencies came together to provide information including the NYS Department of Labor, DC 37 Health and Security, CUNY, Nontraditional Employment for Women, and MetroPlus. Laid-off workers were able to access unemployment information, job training programs and information on how to enroll in local colleges. They were also able to apply for low-income health insurance, housing, food stamps, as well as receiving personalized credit counseling. Job postings were also distributed.

Local 372 President Santos Crespo and DC 37 Executive Director Lillian Roberts addressed the laid-off workers. "We will not forget the fact that you were callously laid off by Mayor Bloomberg and Chancellor Walcott. These layoffs are a declaration of war. They were financially unnecessary and socially irresponsible," said Crespo. The majority of the laid-off workers are women of color and head of households. They provided critical services in the schools, taking care of children, at a low cost. "There was no cost-savings in laying off these workers," Crespo explained. The laid-off workers are among New York City's lowest paid workers. This layoff was the largest single-agency layoff since 2002.

Local 372 is committed to staying in contact with the laid-off workers. "We assure them that they will have the means to holiday dinners this year as they were laid-off right before the holiday season," stated President Crespo.

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