

# Getting to know...



**Aaron Phelps**



**Director of University  
Center for Training and  
Development**  
Operations Division

**Individual Development  
Award Committee Chair**

*I started working at Binghamton University in 2016 and was promoted to the Director of the UCTD in 2019. My background is in Library Science, but I transitioned into the training workspace in 2014. My biggest achievements are being a proud husband and father.*

## QUESTION & ANSWER

### **Tell me about your job and why you love what you do?**

*As the Director of the UCTD, I supervise four incredible Training Associates with a wide variety of talents. We conduct workshops on software ranging from MS Office suite to video editing and Data Analytics. Our roles as trainers allow us to continually work with people in exciting new ways and provide the help that people need in their day-to-day work. While we often don't directly work with students, we get to see the teachings we provide get passed on to them in the long term.*

### **How did you get involved with UUP?**

*Union involvement is part of my family heritage. My grandfather was a contract negotiator for NEA for 20 years and my mother was a NYSUT building representative for decades as well. I feel it is a duty to our fellow employees to support one another wherever we can. As part of my role as the Director, I was tasked with chairing the IDA committee which has given me the opportunity to help UUP members get funding for all sorts of professional development and research.*

### **How do you make a difference?**

*Treat every interaction with kindness and patience. As a union, we are stronger together which in turn takes time and effort to achieve solidarity amongst all members. On top of my role in IDA, I feel that we should all be advocating for each individual UUP member and the Union as a whole.*

### **What about your community engagement; any hobbies?**

Currently, I serve as a docent for the Preservation Association of the Southern Tier (PAST) and a board member of a small non-profit cemetery. I'm hoping to work more with VINES in the future when I have a little more time on my hands. I enjoy anything to do with the outdoors including archery, fishing and scuba diving.