



# Getting to know...

## Courtney Ignarri

Delegate and Executive Board Member, Membership Committee, Co-led Lunch + Labor 23-24, Co-led Union Reps (23-24), Union Rep, Organizer for 1:1 Conversation Campaign

---

**Assistant Dean for Graduate Affairs**

Harpur College, Academic Affairs





*I started as an academic advisor in the Psychology department in 2012, then moved to the Harpur Dean's office as a coordinator in 2014, and was promoted to assistant dean in 2019. I live on the west side of Binghamton, and got married last year. I'm the proud parent of an 8 year old step son along with two curmudgeonly anti-social cats and two new feline additions.*

## QUESTION & ANSWER

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

*I cover all things related to the graduate student world for Harpur College. This ranges from funding and hiring to recruiting and everything in between. I love my job because it's complex and no day is the same. I enjoy a good challenge and trying to solve the problems that come across my desk, but I love helping people even more. I'm able to assist our students, faculty and staff with resolving issues and navigating the labyrinthine policies and procedures that can be so daunting.*

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

*I attended UUP meetings and served on the executive board about 11 years ago. I learned a lot about the campus and policies that helped me get a pay raise in my first job here. I got involved in other organizations, but I returned to UUP during and after the pandemic to try and make a difference in supporting staff through those challenges. I am a strong supporter of unions, and I believe that together we can make things better for everyone.*

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

*Show up, think creatively, be willing to do the work, and listen well. When I see a problem or an inequity, it bothers me so much. I can't just sit by and do nothing. First, I try to learn what I can to make sure I have a good understanding of what is going on. Then I think about concrete things that we can do to make it better, sometimes beyond the borders of what we've always done. I think about what I as an individual can do to help, are there any groups that can do more? And finally, who can I advocate to and with to make change. These are usually not simple, easily fixable issues, and change is often slow. I try to remember that every contribution big or small and every voice can chip away at even the most stubborn of problems.*

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

*I have served as a board member and the President for Rise-NY in the past. I will be the Vice President for the Binghamton University Women in 24-25, and I hope to join the Tri-Cities Opera Board of Directors soon. I love escape rooms, board games, and reading. Recently, I've started to play Dungeons & Dragons with my husband, stepson, and some friends, which has been incredibly fun!*