



# the Downstate Update

## NEWSBRIEF

By Rowena Blackman-Stroud

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**United  
University  
Professions**

Downstate Health Sciences University Chapter  
President: Rowena Blackman-Stroud



### DEPARTMENT REPRESENTATIVES MEETING NOTICE

**VIRTUAL ZOOM MEETING**  
Mark your calendar

**DATE: MONDAY, NOVEMBER 9, 2020**  
**TIME: 12:05 pm to 12:55 pm**  
(Details to follow)

Agenda will include:  
Chapter Updates

### BECOME A DEPARTMENT REP

We invite all UUP members to get involved with their union:

- If your department does not have a UUP representative, please volunteer to serve as your Department Representative. Department Representatives will be provided with up-to-date information on issues that pertain to their workplace. If your department has multiple shifts, each shift should have a Department Representative.
- If you have not done so, please submit your personal email address to [Brooklyn@uupmail.org](mailto:Brooklyn@uupmail.org) so we can keep you up-to-date on what's happening.

**ELECTION DAY  
NOVEMBER 3**  
**POLLS OPEN 6 AM - 9 PM**



**GOTV** ---Early in-person voting begins in New York on Saturday, October 24 and continues until November 1.

We encourage you to join your fellow unionists and make your voice heard. Get out and VOTE!!!!

*Please click the links below to check your local County Board of Elections for your early voting polling locations.*

<https://www.elections.ny.gov/countyboards.html>

<https://www.elections.ny.gov/NYSBOE/Counties/CountyBoardRoster10052020.pdf>

### UPCOMING WORKSHOPS

#### UUP STATEWIDE - PRE-RETIREMENT WORKSHOPS

**Monday, November 30, 2020** (part 1) from 7:00 PM – 8: 00 PM and

**Wednesday, December 2, 2020** (part 2) from 7:00 PM – 8:00 PM.

**Monday, December 14, 2020** (part 1) from 12:00 PM – 1:00 PM and

**Wednesday, December 16, 2020** (part 2) from 12:00 PM – 1:00 PM.

**Tuesday, January 26, 2021** (part 1) from 12:00 PM – 1:00 PM and

**Thursday, January 28, 2021** (part 2) from 12:00 PM – 1:00 PM.

## VIRTUAL RALLY TO REINSTATE THE NEW YORK STOCK TRANSFER TAX

Join advocates & elected officials to push the state legislature to reconvene and address the economic crisis facing New York.



**NOVEMBER 10, 12 PM**  
RSVP: [bit.ly/StockTaxRally](https://bit.ly/StockTaxRally)



2021 Open Enrollment Period

November 2 - November 30, 2020

[goer.ny.gov/FSA](https://goer.ny.gov/FSA)  
800-358-7202



### Benefits deadlines coming up

Deadlines are fast approaching for several negotiated benefits for members:

- Flex Spending Open Enrollment period is Nov. 2-30
- PEP Enrollment period is Nov. 2-30
- PTCP Election Period 2021: This program allows your health insurance premiums to be deducted from your paycheck before taxes are withheld, date to be announced.
- Option Transfer Information Availability: This date will be announced once NYSHIP rates have been approved.
- Young Adult Option Enrollment: This date will be announced once NYSHIP rates have been approved.
- Outstanding items: The new 2021 NYSHIP rates and the drug list for the Empire Plan.

The Flex Spending Account (FSA) Program includes three benefits: the Health Care Spending Account, the Dependent Care Advantage Account, and the Adoption Advantage Account. Go [HERE](#) for an Enrollment Book and click [HERE](#) for information on the Flex Spending Account Program.

UUP bargaining unit members can apply for enrollment for the 2021 plan year online or by telephone between Nov. 2 and Nov. 30. The annual contribution to the Health Care Spending Account has increased to \$2,750 and to \$14,300 for the Adoptive Advantage Account for the 2021 plan year.

There are several changes for the 2021 plan year. HealthEquity has acquired WageWorks and is now the FSA administrator. If a member received a WageWorks-branded debit card in 2020, they may still use it to pay for their 2021 health care expenses. They may also continue to use the EZ Receipts mobile app to submit claims and check their account balance.

In addition, the FSA website address has changed to <https://goer.ny.gov/FSA>. Members can view program information, request an enrollment book, and enroll online through the FSA website.

Members with questions about benefits offered under the FSA program can e-mail them to [fsa@goer.ny.gov](mailto:fsa@goer.ny.gov) or call the Flex Spending Account hotline at 800-358-7202.



### **Solutions for Managing Stress During a Crisis -SUNY Downstate Health Science University (click on link)**

<http://uupost.org/downstatemedicalcenter/wp-content/uploads/2020/10/Solutions-to-Managing-Stress-during-a-Crisis.pdf>

For additional information, or if you need assistance, please contact Magda Alliancin, EdD, Program Coordinator, Employee Assistance Program (EAP), NYS EAP Wellness Ambassador, Downstate Health Sciences University at (718) 270-1489 or email at [Magda.Alliancin@downstate.edu](mailto:Magda.Alliancin@downstate.edu)



## **PEP ENROLLMENT STARTS NOV. 2**

The enrollment window for the Productivity Enhancement Program begins Nov. 2 and ends Nov. 30.

Under the PEP, eligible full-time and part-time state employees represented by UUP can exchange accrued annual and/or personal leave to help defray the cost of their NYSHIP premium.

If you are currently enrolled in PEP and remain eligible to participate, you must enroll again to continue your benefits in 2021.

More information about the plan is [HERE](#).

### **UUP Downstate Chapter**

#### **President: Rowena Blackman-Stroud**

VP for Academics: Karen Benker  
VP for Professionals: Hazel Williams  
Secretary: Ellen McTigue  
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Officer for Contingents: Donovan Lorde  
Department Rep Coordinator:  
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#### **UUP/NYSUT Labor Relations Specialist**

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