



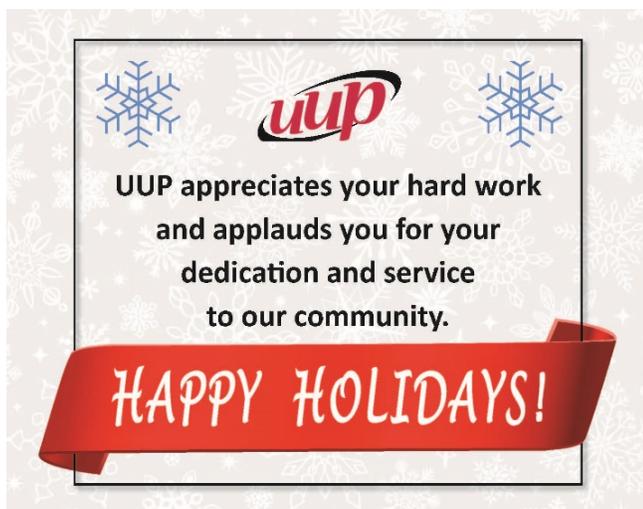
the Downstate Update

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PRESIDENT'S CORNER

By Rowena Blackman-Stroud

HONORING OUR UUP MEMBERS



I wanted to take this opportunity to thank each and every one of you - our front-line health care providers and essential workers - for putting your lives on the line each day to care for those who flocked to our hospitals. Your dedication and sacrifices will always be appreciated and will never be forgotten.

Our members who are participating in the telecommuting program and have had to make a huge adjustment to this new format, thank you.

We appreciate all that you have done for our patients, our students and our community.

Thank you again for all of your efforts during this unprecedented and incredibly difficult year. Please stay safe and find some time to relax during the holidays. You have more than earned it.

MÁRQUEZ ELECTED TO STATEWIDE EXECUTIVE BOARD



Congratulations to Downstate Chapter Vice President for Academics Samuel Márquez, who was elected to the UUP statewide Executive Board.

Márquez, above, was one of three new members elected to the board in a special mail-in election that ended Nov. 25. Márquez was elected to a three-year term ending in 2023.

As an Executive Board member, Márquez together with Downstate Chapter President Rowena Blackman-Stroud will be a presence on the board for Downstate; they will advocate for issues important to our chapter.

PARTICIPATE IN UUP'S 2020-21 LEGISLATIVE AGENDA



UUP statewide co-chairs of the Outreach Committee -- Pamela Malone and Carolyn Kube will host a Dec. 21 virtual town halls on UUP's 2021-22 Legislative Agenda.

At the Town Hall meeting, members can provide their input, suggestions and ideas for the legislative agenda.

Click [HERE](#) to register.

Each year, the union compiles a list of items important to members that it takes directly to state legislators. Union advocates travel to legislators' offices in their home districts and in Albany to push for approval of the initiatives. You can view UUP's Legislative Agenda page on the website by clicking [HERE](#).

If you are unable to attend the Town Halls, you can submit your suggestions via our online portal. Click [HERE](#) to access the portal.

We are making progress each and every day thanks to the hard work of our member activists. Please join us in this fight and add your voice to UUP's legislative agenda.

VIRTUAL DA SET FOR JANUARY

The January 2021 Delegate Assembly will be held virtually on Friday, Jan. 22 and Saturday, Jan. 23, 2021.

The DA will run from 1 to 5 p.m. on Jan. 22 and from 9 a.m. to noon on Jan. 23.

The proposed DA draft schedule is posted on the UUP Members Only section of the UUP website.

To access DA materials, go to the [UUP website](#) (www.uupinfo.org), go to the Member tab at the top of the homepage and click Members Only. You will be directed to enter your UUP ID# and your Chapter ID#.

Contact jobryan@uupmail.org or call 1-800-342-4206 with questions.

IDA PROGRAM INFO ON THE WAY

Application forms and guidelines for the NYS/UUP Individual Development Award (IDA) Program are coming soon.

The application is for the period starting July 1, 2020 to June 30, 2021.

All eligible UUP bargaining unit members may apply for a maximum of \$1,000 to help support such activities as:

- Small research projects
- Attendance at conferences or workshops
- Tuition for academic or individual coursework
- Participation in internships
- Preparation of material for publication
- Participation in other activities that will help them in their professional development career at SUNY.

Funding for the program is provided under the 2016-2022 Agreement between UUP and the State of New York.

Decisions on granting the awards will be made by the campus Individual Development Committee, which is comprised of four members appointed by UUP and four members appointed by management.

Please hold on to receipts for eligible activities. More information is coming soon.

UUP SECURES NEW VACATION ACCRUAL CAP EXTENSION

UUP has reached agreement with the Governor's Office of Employee Relations to extend the January 1, 2020, vacation accrual cap.

The extension, signed Dec. 1, gives employees with more than 40 vacation days who haven't been able to use them due to COVID-19 response efforts another year to use the time. Employees will have until Dec. 31, 2021, to take the leave time.

The agreement is linked to Article 23.2(d) of the State/UUP Agreement, which says that employees with vacation accruals in excess of 40 days at close of business on Dec. 31 of each year must forfeit the excess leave to bring their vacation leave credits down to 40 days on Jan. 1.

Click [HERE](#) to read the Memorandum of Agreement.

YOU CAN SPEND 2020 HCAA, DCAA FUNDS IN 2021

If you didn't spend all of the money you set aside for the 2020 Health Care Spending Account, don't worry.

You can use up to \$500 in unexpended funds for eligible expenses next year. Dependent Care Advantage Account enrollees also have more time to use funds leftover from 2020.

UUP-represented members can use up to \$500 in 2020 HCSA funds in 2021. The IRS allows for an employer to carry over remaining balances for use during the next year.

Click [HERE](#) to check your 2020 HCSA balances or call 1-800-358-7207 for more information. Email fsa@goer.ny.gov or call WageWorks/Health Equity at 1-800-358-7202 with questions.

DCAA enrollees have an additional two and a half months to use unspent 2020 funds for eligible expenses in 2021. Claims can be submitted for care provided between Jan. 1 and March 15, 2021; claims must be filed by March 31, 2021.

The extension may help provide some financial relief, allowing you to use dollars set aside for dependent care costs that you couldn't use due to coronavirus-related closures of services such as before-school and after-school programs, child care centers and camps.

Click [HERE](#) to check your 2020 DCAA balance or call 1-800-358-7207 for more information. Email fsa@goer.ny.gov or call WageWorks/Health Equity at 1-800-358-7202 with questions about the grace period or your DCAA.

UUP SCHOLARSHIP AWARDS



SUNY students can apply for annual scholarships offered by UUP.

The application deadline for the UUP College Scholarship Fund scholarships is March 1, 2021. Applications are on UUP's website. You can access them at this link:

<http://www.uupinfo.org/awards>.

The application deadline for the Steve Street Scholarship is May 1, 2021.

Through its College Scholarship Fund Undergraduate Scholarship, UUP awards \$3,000 scholarships to a maximum of four SUNY undergraduates who excel academically and are dedicated to the goals and ideals of the labor movement.

Applicants must be full-time students enrolled at SUNY state-operated schools and have a minimum grade point average of 3.75.

Full-time graduate and professional SUNY students can apply for UUP's William Scheuerman Post Baccalaureate Scholarship. The scholarship is named in honor of former UUP President William Scheuerman.

To apply for the Scheuerman scholarship, students must have at least nine credits and hold a cumulative grade point average of at least 3.95. Law and health science students must complete at least one full semester prior to applying for the scholarship.

The Steve Street Scholarship is a \$500 award given to an undergraduate student or group of undergraduate students currently enrolled at a SUNY campus who have created any paper or documented any project related to social justice issues or topics. The scholarship is available to full- and part-time students.

For more information, go to UUP's website or contact UUP's administrative office at (800) 342-4206

UUP Downstate Chapter

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Stroud**

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VP Professionals: Hazel Williams

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Treasurer: Fred Houston

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nter](http://uuphost/downstatemedicalcenter)

UUP ISSUES PANDEMIC GUIDELINES FOR SPRING SEMESTER

UUP's recommended guidelines for the spring semester on SUNY campuses expands upon the measures the union recommended for the fall semester—recommendations that SUNY largely adopted once SUNY chancellor Jim Malatras took charge of the university's response in late August.

UUP's spring guidelines reflect how much UUP and SUNY have learned about the coronavirus, including its transmission and the mental health effects of dealing with it.

Click [HERE](#) to read the guidelines and other information about the pandemic on UUP's COVID-19 resources page.

PRE-RETIREMENT WORKSHOP SET

UUP will hold a virtual pre-retirement workshop in January 2021.

The two-part webinar will cover health care and Medicare followed by union benefits, such as dental and vision coverage.

Jan. 26, 2021: Health care and Medicare, noon

Jan. 28, 2021: Union benefits, noon.

Click [HERE](#) to sign up for both webinars.