



PRESIDENT'S CORNER

By Rowena Blackman-Stroud

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UUP NEGOTIATED SALARY RAISES DUE IN AUGUST

UUP bargaining unit member will see their 2020, 2021 negotiated salary raises in a few days.

The raises were negotiated by UUP and are guaranteed as part of the 2016-2022 contract between UUP and the state. The state delayed payment of the raises because of the coronavirus pandemic; New York faced a double-digit budget deficit with no certainty of when or if additional federal pandemic relief would be provided to states.

Here's when the raises will appear in your paychecks:

- Members on a calendar year appointment, who were on payroll June 30, 2020, will receive their negotiated salary increase in the paycheck dated August 4, 2021, retroactive to July 1, 2020.
- Members on a calendar year appointment, who were on payroll June 30, 2021, will receive their negotiated salary increase in the paycheck dated August 18, 2021, retroactive to July 1, 2021.
- 10month/academic year employees with increases effective in September will see the 2021 increase in checks dated Sept. 15 or Sept. 29.
- Adjunct faculty will receive the 2021 increase in their first check after returning to obligation.

CONGRATULATIONS!

I would like to congratulate all our members who were awarded the Professional Development Award for their projects and activities for the period July 2, 2020- July 1, 2021.

Funding for the awards program was negotiated by UUP and is outlined in Article 42 of the 2016-2022 contract between UUP and the state.

Awardees were selected by the campus PDA Committee whose members were appointed by both UUP and the Administration. Thanks to Anika Daniels-Osaze, UUP co-chair; Jeff Rosen, co-chair Labor Management; and committee members Elizabeth Smith, Khadijah Sikriti, Angela Melton-Taylor, Dawn Haggerty, and Ellen McTigue for their efforts.

Special thanks to Yolanda Wilson who served as staff liaison.

All recipients of the Professional Development Award will receive notification from the committee outlining the process to be reimbursed.

If you have questions or concerns, please email Yolanda Wilson at Yolanda.Wilson@downstate.edu and copy the following: Anika Daniels-Osaze at Anika.Daniels-Osaze@downstate.edu and Jeff Rosen at Jeff.Rosen@downstate.edu

The list below provides the names of the awardees and the amounts that will be funded.

MICHELLE ADAMS	\$1,000
GRACE AKPAN	\$455
RESSA ANTHONY	\$600
LORRAINE ANTOINE	\$1,000
ELLEN BERKOWITZ	\$700
SYDNEY BUTTS	\$1,000
JONATHAN CARRELLI	\$1,000
NATALYA CHERNICHENKO	\$1,000
CARL COHEN	\$235
YANIQUE COMEAU	\$1,000
ANTONI D'SOUZA	\$291
DAVID DANIEL	\$930
LAUREN ELLIS	\$1,000
MOHAMMAD FAYSEL	\$750
LUCILLE GRULLON	\$471
CHRISTOPHER HELLEN	\$285
RIVKA HELLEN	\$699
HAGAR KANDEL	\$1,000
STEVEN KANG	\$1,000
KENNETH LYTTLE	\$942
ELLEN MCTIGUE	\$945
DONNA MENDONCA	\$259
CYNTHIA MEWBORNE	\$1,000
SCOTT PASCAL	\$1,000
OMESHA PASCHAL	\$780
ALEX PESKOVSKI	\$645
MAISHA PRICE	\$1,000
MAYERLINE SANDERS	\$1,000
MARCIA SCHMIDT	\$475
JOANNE SHEU	\$1,000
HYMAN SHWARZBERG	\$650
THOMAS TAYLOR	\$485
CECICLIA THOMPSON	\$900
TONYA WILLIAMS	\$1,000

**STATEMENT BY UUP PRESIDENT
FREDERICK E. KOWAL ON THE
GOVERNOR'S COVID-19 VACCINE
DIRECTIVES FOR STATE EMPLOYEES,
HEALTH CARE WORKERS**

This is UUP's response to Gov. Andrew Cuomo's July 28 order for state workers to get vaccinated against COVID-19 or undergo weekly testing. The governor also said he would mandate vaccinations for "patient-facing" health care workers at SUNY's public teaching hospitals.

"Throughout the pandemic, United University Professions has taken the lead in keeping our students, our

patients and our members safe." We have worked closely with SUNY to enact COVID-19 surveillance testing and mask-wearing mandates on our campuses.

"In a recent survey of our members, nearly 90% report being vaccinated against COVID-19." On July 1, UUP and SUNY agreed to extend mandatory weekly coronavirus testing for unvaccinated union-represented employees. This is similar to today's COVID-19 vaccine directive from the governor regarding state employees.

"Because today's directives from the governor— particularly mandatory vaccinations for our front-facing health care workers at SUNY's public teaching hospitals in Brooklyn, Stony Brook and Syracuse—would change the terms and conditions of employment for our members, they must be negotiated with UUP before they are imposed."

**NOW MORE THAN EVER: A STRONG
CASE FOR GETTING THE
CORONAVIRUS VACCINE**

The coronavirus pandemic's over, isn't it? So what's all this talk about mask mandates being reimposed, and the delta variant spreading ... aren't we done with this yet?

The short answer: No.

Even as Americans began to declare "victory" over the coronavirus this spring, the pandemic was raging in India and other parts of the world. And the definition of "victory" in this country was a matter of semantics. Elected officials, including President Biden, set goals for vaccination rates, with 70 percent of the adult population being fully vaccinated often cited as a desirable goal.

Americans didn't reach President Biden's target by his deadline of July 4, and even if we had, a 70 percent vaccination rate would have meant that millions of adult Americans remained unvaccinated—and not for lack of opportunity.

If you remember that many of those unvaccinated people are concentrated

in certain regions or states, and that children under age 12 still cannot be vaccinated, even if their parents want them to be, the recent news stories about flare-ups of the virus suddenly become a lot clearer.

By mid-July, Los Angeles County had reimposed mask mandates. A number of infectious disease experts warn that we should be very careful, still, because this virus is producing variants at a good clip. Remember: There's a reason that viruses are an unimaginably older life form than modern humans. They're very good at surviving, reproducing and outwitting attempts to stop them from doing either.

This is why UUP is urging members who have yet to be vaccinated to seriously consider doing so. Talk to someone you trust about the coronavirus vaccine, which is safe, effective and easy to obtain.

Hear UUP President Fred Kowal deliver a message about UUP's vaccination campaign, #VaxUpUUP, [HERE](#).

Read more about the surge of the highly contagious and dangerous delta variant in New York City and around the country, [HERE](#).

NEW STATEWIDE OFFICERS START AUG. 2

UUP's two new statewide officers will officially be on the job Aug. 2.

Brockport Chapter President Alissa Karl and Stony Brook HSC Chapter President Carolyn Kube ran unopposed for three-year terms as vice president for academics and vice president for professionals, respectively. Both are members of UUP's Executive Board.

UUP's statewide Executive Board, at its June 24 meeting, voted to authorize statewide Secretary-Treasurer Jeri O'Bryan-Losee to cast a single ballot to elect Karl and Kube. She will cast that vote July 30.

Longtime statewide Vice President for Academics Jamie Dangler and statewide Vice President for Professionals Tom

Tucker both decided not to run for another term.

THANK YOU TO OUR FRONT LINE AND ESSENTIAL WORKERS

On July 6, UUP's Downstate Chapter joined New York City's hometown heroes tribute, part of our commitment to honor our front line and essential workers for their hard work and dedication.



Throughout July, chapter officers delivered snacks and fruits to our essential workers, as a way to say thank you for their dedication

during the pandemic, which overwhelmed Downstate and other New York City hospitals in March and April 2020.

Chapter officers will continue to make the deliveries in August.

It is not easy to look back to that time, when New York City was the epicenter of the coronavirus pandemic. We all saw the hospital beds filled with people stricken with COVID-19. We saw the pain of family members who were unable to be with loved ones before they passed.



But to fully understand the commitment of you, our members, we must look back. We must look back to understand the bravery of our essential workers, who took on extra shifts and worked days at a time—putting themselves and their families at risk—to do their jobs.



We appreciate your dedication, and we will never forget it.

Thank you again for all that you do for our patients, our hospital and our community.

PRE-RETIREMENT WORKSHOPS

UUP will hold a virtual pre-retirement workshop.

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

- August 10, 2021, 7- 8:00 pm - Part 1 * Register [HERE](#)
- August 12, 2021, 7-8 p.m. - Part 2 * Register [HERE](#)

DEPARTMENT REPRESENTATIVES **VOLUNTEERS NEEDED**

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 Reps 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 Rep.
- Attend Department Rep meetings. Attend chapter meetings.

If you have not done so, please submit your personal email address to Brooklyn@uupmail.org so we can keep you up-to-date on what's happening.

UUP Downstate Chapter

President: Rowena Blackman-Stroud

VP for Academics: Samuel Marquez
VP for Professionals: Hazel Williams
Secretary: Ellen McTigue
Treasurer: Fred Houston
Grievance Chair: Chantel D. Fuller
Officer for Contingents: Donovan Lorde
Department Rep Coordinator:
Rowena Blackman-Stroud
Retirees Officer: Shirley Patterson

UUP/NYSUT Labor Relations Specialist

Lisa Mouscardy Willis

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Jacqueline L. Bourgeois

Chapter information

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