



the Downstate Update

PRESIDENT'S CORNER

By Rowena Blackman-Stroud

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DOWNSTATE HAS A NEW OFFICER FOR CONTINGENTS

The Downstate Chapter would like to welcome Laura Martello-Rooney as our chapter's new officer for contingents.

Martello-Rooney, a PhD – takes over for Donovan Lorde, who stepped down April 20. She has worked as a research assistant professor at Downstate since 2009.

She was elected April 18 to fill Donovan's unexpired term. Martello-Rooney is a dedicated unionist who will do a great job in her new role as officer for contingents.

Blackman-Stroud also thanked Lorde for serving as the chapter's officer for contingents.

On behalf of the Officers, Governing Board, and membership, we would like to thank Donovan for his service to UUP. He is a committed unionist. We will miss him, and we wish him well.

NEW STATE BUDGET 2022-23

Thank you to our Downstate Chapter members for your efforts to help UUP push for more funding for SUNY and other changes in the enacted 2022-2023 state budget—actions that will benefit Downstate and SUNY's other public teaching hospitals.

"Without the hard work of our members, UUP wouldn't have been able to convince state legislators to provide necessary state funding and important budgetary changes for SUNY and for SUNY Downstate," said Downstate President Rowena Blackman-Stroud. "Thank you for all that you do for our chapter and for our union."

Certainly, the biggest win for SUNY's teaching hospitals is the state agreeing to pay for the hospitals' debt service costs. The hospitals were the only state entities required to pay their own debt service. This change will provide nearly \$69 million in additional dollars for Downstate and SUNY hospitals in Stony Brook and Syracuse.

The enacted budget provides \$150 million in new bonded capital, split evenly among the three SUNY hospitals.

There's also money—for the payment of retention bonuses of up to \$3,000 for qualifying employees at the three SUNY teaching hospitals. The number of eligible employees is still being determined. We will keep you apprised as we get additional information.

The budget authorizes the Department of Health to conduct an 18-month study to determine the feasibility of constructing a new children's hospital at Downstate. The DOH will consider the need for medical services for women and children in Kings County, including new medical facilities or capital improvements to existing perinatal centers.

Also, Downstate qualifies as a safety net hospital under the enacted state budget. That means Downstate can access Distressed Hospital funding, which got more than \$1.3 billion in this year's budget.

The budget fully funds the required match for the federal Disproportionate Share Hospitals funding for the next two years.

Finally, for the first time in a long time, SUNY will get funding to hire new full-time faculty. SUNY and the community colleges will share \$53 million in new state spending on SUNY.

UUP CONTRACT NEGOTIATIONS

UUP's statewide negotiations team, negotiation committee and ad hoc committee are meeting April 28 - 30, 2022, to finalize the unions proposed conceptual package.

Redetha Abrahams-Nichols, UUP statewide team member, Rowena Blackman-Stroud, negotiation committee member, Ellen McTigue and Samuel Marquez, ad hoc committee members will be in attendance.

We will keep you apprised of the process – Members are encouraged to share their stories and concerns regarding the provisions of the current agreement by sending an email to contract@uupmail.org,

DID YOU KNOW? STUDENT LOAN PAUSE EXTENDED TO AUGUST

The pause on student loan payments has been extended to Aug. 31 for people with outstanding federal loans, in the latest of a long series of so-called "pandemic pauses" which have been granted to borrowers for more than two years.

The pause extends to borrowers who were delinquent or in default on their loans, and the U.S. Department of Education will allow those borrowers to resume payments in good standing.

All UUP members with federal student loans are eligible to also apply for the federal Public Service Loan Forgiveness program because SUNY is a government agency and is therefore a qualifying

employer under the program's guidelines.

There are several ways to learn more about Public Service Loan Forgiveness. The AFT has information about the Public Service Loan Forgiveness program and other resources on student debt. Go [HERE](#) and [HERE](#) for details.

And UUP offers virtual student debt clinics to help members navigate the federal public service forgiveness program and learn more about income-driven repayment plans.

Statewide Secretary-Treasurer Jeri O'Bryan-Losee leads the clinics.

All clinics are on Wednesdays.

NYC WORKERS MEMORIAL DAY EVENT SLATED

Workers Memorial Day is April 28, a day that unions across the country remember those who lost their lives on the job and fight for workplace safety.

In 1984, the AFL-CIO declared April 28 as Workers Memorial Day. The date is also the anniversary of when the Occupational Safety and Health Act of 1970 went into effect and the 1971 formation of the Occupational Safety and Health Administration.

In New York City, a Workers Memorial Day event is scheduled for noon on Thursday, April 28. Details are below.

- **New York City:** [Workers Memorial Day](#). Noon. City Hall Park, Broadway, Park Row and Chambers St. Sponsored by the New York City Central Labor Council, AFL-CIO, and the New York Committee for Occupational Safety and Health (NYCOSH).

Click [HERE](#) to go to the New York City Central Labor Council website for more information.

UUP MEMBER SERVICES WEBINAR SERIES

UUP has launched its new Member Services Trust Virtual Benefits Webinar Series, which will focus on voluntary benefits offered only to UUP members.

The webinars, which will run between 30 minutes and an hour, are only open to UUP members. They will highlight the different vendors that are part of the UUP Member Services Trust Voluntary Benefits programs.

The webinars, which will feature a different vendor each week, will be held from noon to 1 p.m. on Wednesdays.

The webinar schedule is below.

- Davis Vision voluntary benefits: May 11
- Trupanion pet insurance: May 25
- Delta Dental voluntary benefits: June 8
- MetLife Legal and Group Universal Life: June 22
- Liberty Mutual, Aug. 3.

Click [HERE](#) to register for any of the webinars.

Contact Lisa McNeil at lmcneil@uupbenefits.org with questions about the series.

REGISTER FOR UUP'S UPCOMING PRE-RETIREMENT WORKSHOPS

UUP is holding its virtual pre-retirement workshops in May.

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

- Tuesday, May 17, 7:00 pm to 8:00 pm
- Thursday, May 19, 7:00 pm to 8:00 pm

To register, click [Here](#)

UPCOMING NYS UUP/JLMC WORKSHOPS

Workplace Civility

- May 17
- May 20



Workplace Civility

Workshop Description

In this one-day workshop participants will acquire knowledge and awareness of the benefits of a positive, respectful workplace environment. Participants will, through a combination of facilitator presentation, small group discussion, and interactive exercises, acquire an understanding of how to contribute to a respectful, collegial, positive workplace and how to co-create the type of workplace that brings out the best in people so that they can flourish in their careers.

Send the completed [Workshop Application](#) to nysuuplmc@oer.ny.gov.



Workshop offered by
New York State/
United University
Professions Joint
Labor-Management
Committees
(NYS/UUP JLMC)

Virtually via Zoom
9:00 am to 4:00 pm

Upcoming Dates:
May 17
May 20

**Application deadline is
one week before
workshop**

For more information
contact NYS/UUP JLMC:

Email:
nysuuplmc@oer.ny.gov
Phone: 518.486.4666
Mail: Agency Building 2, 8th Fl
Empire State Plaza
Albany, NY 12223

Connect & Compromise

- May 4
- June 1



Connect and Compromise: How to Navigate Workplace Conflict

NEW

Workshop Description

In this workshop, you will learn to effectively manage conflict by building on the positive aspects of your communication style while balancing the personalities and preferences of your co-workers. Through interactive exercises and role-playing opportunities, you will deepen your understanding of functional communication and help others feel more supported at work. Upon conclusion of this training, you will gain the ability to re-frame responses and attitudes to resolve differences in a more collaborative manner because when people can honestly express their ideas and opinions, they feel more supported and satisfied in their work environment.

Send the completed [Workshop Application](#) to nysuuplmc@oer.ny.gov.



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Diversity in the Workplace

- May 11
- June 8
- June 10



Diversity: Learning How to Leverage Difference at Work
SPRING 2022

Workshop Description
This one-day workshop will provide participants with the opportunity to learn about different models of diversity which include primary and secondary types of diversity. Participants will acquire awareness and understanding of a variety of dimensions of diversity including but not limited to demographics. Topics in this workshop include cross cultural diversity, generational diversity, education, social class, race, age, gender, religion, and other ways that diversity manifests and is also tacit in the workplace. Participants will come away from this workshop with an increased level of sophistication about difference and they will acquire skills in recognizing and valuing diversity in the workplace.

Send the completed [Workshop Application](#) to: nysuuplmc@oer.ny.gov.



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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:

Laura Martello-Rooney

Department Rep Coordinator:

Rowena Blackman-Stroud

Membership Development Officer:

Khadija Sikriti

Retirees Officer: Shirley Patterson

UUP/NYSUT Labor Relations Specialist

Lisa Mouscardy Willis

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Phone: 718-270-1519

Fax: 718-774-0800

Email: brooklyn@uupmail.org

UUP website: www.uupinfo.org

Global Cultural Diversity & Inclusion

- May 13
- June 3
- June 21



Global Cultural Diversity & Inclusion:
Communicating Effectively in a
World of Difference

Workshop Description
In this survey-level workshop, participants will develop a practical understanding of the complexity of effective communication in organizational settings where they need to work every day with colleagues, students, and other stakeholders who are culturally diverse and come from various international backgrounds and all walks of life. Participants will learn about the differences and similarities in key national cultural systems represented in our increasingly global workplace. They will acquire skills in effective communication including attentive listening, effective messaging, empathy, and ways to identify the meaning and intention of verbal and non-verbal communication with the purpose of creating a meaningful sense of inclusion in the workplace. The participants will engage in several interactive critical incident analysis sessions in which they can explore and evaluate their own communication styles and take appropriate action for a meaningful intervention. They will also work on an action plan for ongoing refinement of their global communication skills and for sustaining an inclusive productive relationship with key stakeholders.

Send the completed [Workshop Application](#) to: nysuuplmc@oer.ny.gov.



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