

# UNITY

## **UUP Cobleskill Chapter Newsletter**

April 2021

# SUSTAINABILITY ROUNDTABLE April 22, 12 PM

Moderator: Fred Kowal, UUP President

#### **Panelists:**

Hon. Steve Englebright- Member of the the NYS Assembly; Assembly District 4

Stephan Edel- Coalition Coordinator; NY Renews

Dennis Elsenbeck- President; Viridi Parente

Susan Fassler- Sustainability Manager; SUNY ESF

Peter Iwanowicz — Executive Director; Environmental Advocates NY

Jessica Ottney Mahar- NY Director for Policy and Strategy; The Nature Conservancy Join us for a special **Earth Day** virtual roundtable discussion focused on sustainability.



Register & learn about future roundtables: bit.ly/UUP-roundtable

#### **CONTACT US**

SUNY Cobleskill
UUP Chapter Office
125 Schenectady Avenue
Old Gym 001
Cobleskill, NY 12043
(518) 255-5250
Cobleskill@uupmail.org

Visit us on the web at www.uuphost.org/cobleskill/

### In This Issue

| • | Sustainability       |
|---|----------------------|
|   | Roundtable,pg 1      |
| • | Statewide Virtual    |
|   | Budget Rallypg 2     |
| • | Virtual Student Debt |
|   | Clinicspg 3          |
| • | UUP President's      |
|   | News Cornerpg 4      |
| • | Pre-retirement Work- |
|   | shon ng 5            |

# Statewide Virtual Budget Rally: All in for SUNY & CUNY

**April 1, 2021 - 4 PM** 

Join union members, students, and advocates to rally for funding for public higher education in New York!

RSVP for Zoom: http://bit.ly/ALLin4SUNYCUNY

# #ALLin4SUNYCUNY









# Virtual 2021 Ex Board Meetings

Thursday, February 18 11:30 am—12:30 pm

Thursday, March 18 12:00 pm—1:00 pm

Thursday, April 15 12:30 pm—1:30 pm

Thursday, May 13 12:30 pm—1:30 pm







Help support **NYSUT-endorsed** candidates and campaign committees that are pro-public education and pro-labor.

Click onto the link below for more information:

> https:// uupinfo.org/ votecope/

Or you may contact:

Dr. Salvador Rivera Vote-Cope Coordinator (518) 255-6238 riveras@cobleskill.edu

# Virtual Student **Debt Clinics -**May dates

Over 12 million people in the United States are struggling to make their monthly student loan payments, and millions more see economic and personal opportunities pass as they prioritize paying down their debt. Does this sound like you or someone you know?

Many of these people may qualify for free federal programs that can help reduce their monthly payments and eventually lead to student loan forgiveness, but these lifeline programs are significantly under-enrolled. In an effort to help our members get access to these programs, **United University** Professions and the American Federation of Teachers are proud to host a Student Debt Clinic which will provide information on how to enroll in Income**Driven Repayment** plans and Public Service Loan Forgiveness.

We will be offering virtual Members Only Student Debt Clinics on the following dates:

Wednesday, May 12, 2021 from 11:30 AM - 1:00 PM via webinar.

2021 from 5:00 PM - to the clinic to all

To attend one of the virtual Members Only Student Debt Clinics, you must preregister here: http:// go.aft.org/ Stu-

dentDebtClinicRSVP. From the "student debt clinic" drop down menu, please select the UUP clinic that you are interested in attending they are labeled "UUP [Virtual Student Debt Clinic] [date] [time]." In the affiliate field, type in the full name of our local (United University Professions), and it will autofill after a few keystrokes.

Registration is first come, first serve, and we must cap attendance for a single clinic at 75 participants in order to ensure that we are able to provide maximum assistance to attendees. Registration will close 48 hours prior to the virtual clinic. Webinar login information Wednesday, May 26, will be provided prior **6:30 PM via webinar.** who register. [If you can't make one of these virtual clinics. don't worry – we're planning on offering them every payday. If you want to help host a chapterspecific virtual clinic, please let us know!]

> Managing your student loan debt is the first step in taking on the inequities which plague our system of higher education, and we look forward to seeing you at the virtual Student Debt Clinic and working together to find a collective solution to the problems of student debt and college affordability!



# News from the desk of Dr. Frederick E. Kowal, President

## 2020 Pay Raises Update

As I indicated to you in my earlier email, I wanted to pass along information about our delayed 2020 pay raises, but thought it to be appropriate to wait until we had more definitive information. Several days ago, the Governor officially announced that the State is paying the delayed 2020 2% pay raises for all State bargaining units that are due them. This includes our delayed pay raises (the 2% on base increases due July or September, the per course minimum salary increases for adjunct faculty, as well as the 2% increases due on the PGY salary schedules for residents and fellows). The governor's press release announcing this is attached: <a href="https://">https://</a>

www.governor.ny.gov/news/governor-cuomoannounces-new-york-state-restores-600-milliongeneral-salary-increases-new-york

One piece of information we wanted to clarify prior to sending out the official notice to you had to do with the enacted state budget. It includes a \$600 million dollar appropriation to fund the increases and the related retroactive monies that are due. We have confirmed that this appropriation exists. We do not yet have precise information on how much of this appropriation may be coming to SUNY to fund the increases due to SUNY employees (UUP, CSEA and M/C), however, it is encouraging news. We will continue to work to get clarification. But, again, this could be extraordinary news. It would mean that campuses

would not have to bear the cost of the raises!

Second, and vitally important to all of us is that the State has not yet announced the precise dates on which these increases, and the retroactive money owed, will be paid to our members. We are however aware that the Division of the Budget and the Office of the State Comptroller have begun the process that is necessary to establish these dates. As soon as we have additional information we provide it to you. The machinery of the state moves slowly, but it does move. The money we are owed is coming!

Stay tuned... and thanks to you and all our members for your patience!

In Solidarity, Fred

# Pre-Retirement Workshop: Part 1-Tuesday April 20th & Part 2-Thursday April 22 both @12-1pm

There are still some openings for our upcoming April Workshop. These workshops are open to all Bargaining Unit Members and everyone should attend to understand the benefits that our union has negotiated over the years. Feel free to attend multiple times as there is a lot of information to absorb. You can register at link below:

https://forms.gle/LRvXH1Spht2quxsR7

In Solidarity, Tom

#### **Tom Hoey**

State Wide Membership Development Officer United University Professions



## **History of Earth Day**

https://www.adirondackcouncil.org/page/the-history-of-earth-day-256.html? gclid=EAIaIQobChMI4um0hbe18AIVMfLjBx2G5g74EAAYAyAAEgJUwPD\_BwE

# **UUP Executive Board Members**

Bill Tusang, President

(518) 255-5205

Christina Trees, VP Academics

(518) 255-5119

Wendi Richards, VP Professionals

(518) 255-5870

Candy Hofmann, Secretary

(518) 255-5015

Emma Paden, Treasurer

Kevin Moore, Officer for Contingents & Part Time Members

(518) 255-5767

Thomas Hickey, Grievance Chair

(518) 255-5106

Mitch Tomaszkiewicz, Membership Chair

(518) 255-6244

TBA, Affirmative Action Officer

Salvador Rivera, Vote-Cope Coordinator

(518) 255-6238

Cliff DaVis, Officer for Retirees

Joseph McCarthy, Professional Delegate

Michelle Couture, Labor Relations Specialist

michelle.couture @nysut.org

Bulletin Newsletter Editor, Patricia Lepore Moody

Chapter Assistant, Patricia Lepore Moody

# **UUP Chapter Office**

001 Old Gym

Monday & Tuesday

8:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

Thursday

8:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.