



## President's Corner


By Rowena Blackman-Stroud

On behalf of the UUP chapter officers, I would like to extend a hearty welcome and best wishes to all in the new year.

I'd like to welcome you to our 2015 Legislative Session. 2014 was a very challenging year - we believe that 2015 will prove to be even more challenging.

The chapter officers and the Governing Board dedicated the week of January 12th to meet and greet our eight newly-elected Brooklyn legislators: Assemblymembers Rodneyse Bichotte, Jo Anne Simon, Erik Dilan, Latrice Monique Walker, Roxanne Persaud, Charles Barron and Senators Leroy Comrie, Jr. and Jesse Hamilton.

Please join us as we advocate for additional resources for Downstate Medical Center. Details on the governor's 2015-16 Executive Budget immediately follow this page. Information for the HSC Advocacy Day scheduled for Wednesday, Feb. 25, 2015 is as follows:



**The time is NOW**

**2015 HSC ADVOCACY DAY**

**Speak Up for SUNY Hospitals and Health Sciences Centers!**

Join union members from Brooklyn, Buffalo, Stony Brook and Syracuse.

- ✓ Meet with Albany lawmakers
- ✓ Tell elected officials to:
  - Protect and enhance SUNY hospitals and HSCs
  - Restore funding for SUNY hospitals and HSCs
  - Stop the threat on quality health care and medical education

**WEDNESDAY, FEB. 25**  
**THE LOB, ALBANY**

Transportation, lunch and meetings with lawmakers will be arranged by UUP Research/Legislation.

**For more information, contact Celine Mell in UUP Research/Legislation at [cmell@uupmail.org](mailto:cmell@uupmail.org) or at (518) 640-6600.**

UUP members interested in participating in the HSC Advocacy Day must charge their AL time. UUP will provide train tickets to Albany for all participants and will reimburse for meals and transportation to and from Penn Station. Therefore, please remember to keep all original receipts.

For additional information on the HSC Advocacy Day, please contact Celine Mell in the UUP Research/Legislation Dept. at 800-342-4206 or via email at [cmell@uupmail.org](mailto:cmell@uupmail.org).

### SFY 2015-16 EXECUTIVE BUDGET PROPOSAL Higher Education Summary Snapshot

#### **SUNY STATE-OPERATED HOSPITALS AND HEALTH SCIENCES CENTERS**

Our fight to save jobs and vital health care services at SUNY Downstate Medical Center and SUNY's other public hospitals and health sciences centers continues.

UUP fully expected the governor, in his so-called "Opportunity Agenda," to again attempt to shortchange Downstate and continue his quest to privatize it. These new threats are similar to those we've seen over the past several years.

As in the past, the governor is proposing a significant cut to the hospitals' state subsidy. He is again attempting to win passage of revised Article VII language that would create a pilot program to allow corporations to own and operate up to five state-run health care facilities. One of the private companies must link with an academic medical center or teaching hospital. Given the state's continued attempts to privatize, downsize and close Downstate, it's more than likely that Downstate would be that facility.

Our work is cut out for us, sisters and brothers. It is obvious that the governor would like nothing better than to remove health care from SUNY's oversight and privatize the state's public hospitals and health sciences centers.

We must not be silent. We must stand up and join once again with our community coalition, the SUNY Downstate Coalition of Faith, Labor and Community Leaders, to thwart these threats through rallies and strong advocacy efforts in Albany and Brooklyn.

Here are the challenges that we face:

#### **State subsidy**

The Executive Budget proposes a \$19 million decrease in the state hospitals' subsidy—a 21 percent reduction—to \$69 million. The subsidy has been on the chopping block each year since 2010, where the subsidy was \$128 million. The subsidy is \$88 million in the 2014-15 Enacted Budget.

#### **Restructuring Health Care Delivery Systems Pilot Program**

The Executive Budget again includes Article VII language that would create a pilot program for private companies to invest in, own and operate up to five state-run health care facilities. These can be hospitals, certified home health agencies, licensed home health agencies, and hospices.

With strong support from the SUNY Downstate coalition, we were able to convince the Legislature to reject the proposal in the 2014-15 Enacted budget. However, the revised legislation includes a number of challenges that may prove difficult to overcome. These "safeguard" provisions address concerns about the impact private investment could have on hospital employees, patients and community interests, and quality and access to care—including if the corporation tries to negotiate with a subsequent investor.

The proposed legislation would require a written evaluation of the pilot programs no later than three years after a business corporation affiliates with a state health care facility.

### Hospital capital funding

The Executive Budget provides \$1.4 billion in new capital investments for infrastructure improvements and to stabilize health care providers to advance health care transformation goals. This investment includes

- \$700 million to stabilize the Kings County health care delivery system. The funds may be used to renovate or replace inefficient or outdated facilities as part of a merger, consolidation, acquisition or other significant corporate restructuring activity. Several media outlets have reported that the Cuomo administration is considering using the \$700 million for the construction of a new Brooklyn hospital.
- \$300 million for health care in Oneida County. The funds may be used to consolidate licensed health care facilities into an integrated system of acute inpatient, outpatient primary and other health care services.
- \$400 million for grants to essential health care providers to support debt retirement and capital projects or non-capital projects. The grants must be used to facilitate health care transformation, including mergers, consolidation, acquisition or other significant corporate restructuring activities intended to create a financially sustainable system of care that promotes a patient-centered model of health care delivery.

The Executive Budget proposal allows for funding to be awarded without a competitive bid or request for proposal process.

### CONGRATULATIONS PD WINNERS

In advance, I would like to congratulate all our members who will be awarded Professional Development grants for their projects and activities.

The awards are determined by a campus Joint Labor Management Committee on Professional Development whose members are appointed in equal numbers by UUP and the administration.

Funding for the awards program was negotiated by UUP and is part of the 2011-16 Agreement between UUP and the State of New York. **The list of the recipients of the awards will be available the week of March 2 and will be posted on the UUP bulletin boards throughout the campus.**

## United University Professions

Downstate Medical Center Chapter  
President: Rowena Blackman-Stroud



### CHAPTER MEETING NOTICE February 23, 2015

**DATE:** Monday, February 23, 2015

**TIME:** 1 p.m. - 1:50 p.m.

**PLACE:** Basic Sciences Building  
Lecture Hall 1

(Lunch will be provided at 1:50 p.m.)

#### AGENDA

- Discussion of 2015-16 NYS Executive Budget
- UUP's Advocacy Agenda
- Discussion of 2015-16 Chapter Budget
- Report from Labor Relations Specialist

#### STAYING CONNECTED



- As we continue our "Staying Connected" campaign, we encourage all members to submit their personal e-mail addresses to the UUP office at ext. 1519 to receive frequent updates of campus/chapter issues.
- UUPers are encouraged to check the UUP bulletin boards throughout the campus for current union information.
- UUPers can call the UUP chapter office at ext. 1519 and have information faxed to them to post on their department bulletin boards.
- UUPers can visit the UUP chapter office (Room 2-71P) to obtain information.
- Visit the UUP website at [www.uupinfo.org](http://www.uupinfo.org)
- Visit the [savejobsatsunydownstate.org](http://www.savejobsatsunydownstate.org) website
- Save Jobs at SUNY Downstate is on Facebook. If you have not done so already, please connect to [Sign Up](#) or [Log In](#) and visit <https://www.facebook.com/SaveJobsAtSUNYDownstate>.

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### CHAPTER ELECTIONS

Elections for chapter officers are held every two years. All UUP members (as of Dec. 31, 2014) are eligible to vote for chapter officers, delegates to the Delegate Assembly, and governing board members. (To determine if you are a UUP member, please review your payroll check stub under the section titled "After Tax Deductions" and look for "UUP **Member** 26P".)

Members will receive ballots during the week of Feb. 23 to vote for the following positions: Chapter President, VP for Academics, VP for Professionals, Secretary, Treasurer, Grievance Chair, and Contingent Employment Officer, as well as for delegates to the UUP Delegate Assembly and all seats on the chapter Governing Board.

Details on chapter elections may be found on the UUP website at the following link:  
<http://uupinfo.org/elections/elections.php>.

For additional information, please call Eileen Landy, UUP Secretary, or David Kreh, co-chair of the Elections & Credentials Committee, at 800-342-4206.

#### UUP Chapter at Downstate

**Office** Rm. BSB 2-71P **Box** 96 **Phone** Ext. 1519

**Fax: 718/774-0800**

#### Officers

**President: Rowena Blackman-Stroud**

Academic VP: Karen Benker

Professional VP: Edison Bond, Jr.

Secretary: Ellen McTigue

Treasurer: Fred Houston

Grievance Chair: Simon Abe Gerecht

Officer for Contingents: Paula White

#### Office Manager

Virginia Baltimore-Bert

#### UUP/NYSUT Labor Relations Specialist

Lisa Mouscardy Willis