
Solidarity Lights The Way Forward

From United University Professions - Oneonta <oneonta@uupmail.org>

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To SUNY ONEONTA UUP <oneonta@uupmail.org>



UUP-Date!

News, Events and Action Items

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Hello Teresa,

Welcome to our new chapter newsletter! The UUP Oneonta Communications Committee has been working diligently on trying to deliver our members more streamlined and timely information about union news, events, benefits, deadlines, and actions. We know your time is valuable; we intend to stop wasting it.

There is no denying these are dark times. We head into negotiations with New York State amidst a backdrop of **ideologically-motivated attacks on higher education** and the rise of "artificial intelligence" — an amazing new piece of technology whose primary functions thus far have been to devalue labor, hallucinate 'facts,' and threaten the future occupational prospects of educators and their students. Masked federal immigration agents clad in military gear descend upon American cities in **Minneapolis, Chicago, New York** and **Los Angeles** to terrorize communities, make worksite arrests, and **test the very boundaries of what United States law will tolerate** from an ostensible law enforcement agency. The wealthiest top 10 percent of American households now **regularly account** for **over half of total spending**, while working class educators and the professionals that support them struggle to afford rising costs-of-living on everything from housing, to healthcare, to groceries.

That's why I'm organizing with our union. Collective action is how we can protect the value of our work and ensure the next generation of young minds has a solid foundation of knowledge to build on that isn't gatekept by class, race, sex, gender, or creed. Our solidarity isn't just a sentiment but a lived virtue that can light our way towards a future where we can all grow, thrive, and live.




If you're scared or angry or upset right now and you're not sure what else to do, I invite you to take this moment to come out to one of our meetings or events, break bread with your fellow knowledge workers, and build this movement with us. It's going to take a lot more than some impassioned pleas in a newsletter to change our working conditions here or the wider world of higher education, so if you're ready to contribute, our events are some of the best places to meet others and plug in. Hope to see you at one of them!

Ethan Fox,
(he/him/his)
UUP Oneonta Political Outreach Coordinator

Upcoming Events



The Gender Divide Session

 **Date:** March 3rd
 **Time:** 12 PM - 1 PM
 **Location:** Morris, Craven Lounge

Join the UUP DEI Committee for an engaging and informative luncheon workshop. This interactive session will explore key concepts related to gender identity and gender expression, helping participants build a shared understanding of terminology, lived experiences, and the importance of inclusive practices. Attendees will also learn practical strategies for fostering gender-inclusive classrooms and workplaces, with opportunities for open discussion and collaborative problem-solving. Whether you are looking to deepen your knowledge or strengthen your approach to equity and inclusion, this workshop will provide valuable insights and tools to support a more affirming and respectful campus community.

Please RSVP for this event using the button below.


[RSVP >>](#)



UUP Unplugged

Topics & Conversation

 **Date:** March 5th

 **Time:** 1 - 2 PM

 **Location:** Milne Library - Room 102 A


A casual space for members to discuss current issues, share concerns or just get to know your fellow UUP members.

No RSVP Required

Chapter Meeting

Organizing Conversation

 **Date:** March 11th

 **Time:** 12 - 1 PM

 **Location:** Morris Hall - Le Cafe

RSVP »

Check out statewide upcoming events by following [this link](#) to view the details.

Important Updates

Legislative News


[SUNY, CUNY seek more state aid beyond proposed increases - City & State New York](#) » SUNY and CUNY leaders are calling for a combined \$3B in state aid — far beyond Gov. Hochul's proposal — to pay \$10B in deferred maintenance costs and aging campuses. Despite rising enrollment, chancellors warn that decades of disinvestment require a massive capital boost.


Other News

[Eco-Yotta AI Property Listed for Sale – All Otsego](#) »

The 153-acre property at 357 County Highway 9, proposed site for Eco-Yotta's controversial AI research center in Oneonta, is listed for sale at \$1.05M. Despite the listing, Town Supervisor Will Rivera says the startup hasn't officially retracted its proposal.

What We're Reading

 **[A Fair Deal For SUNY](#)** » The 2026 UUP Legislative Agenda: **[A Fair Deal for SUNY](#)** outlines key advocacy priorities for the 16-page report, including increased State Operating Aid, support for SUNY teaching hospitals, student opportunity programs, and sustainability initiatives.

 **[How AI assistance impacts the formation of coding skills \ Anthropic](#)** » Is AI "productivity" just a shortcut to skill erosion? **[A recent study](#)** from Anthropic reveals that AI assistance led to a 17% drop in mastery for novice workers learning new skills.

Upcoming Deadlines

The Individual Development Awards (IDA) Program

The Individual Development Awards (IDA) Program offers a valuable opportunity for eligible full-time and part-time academic and professional employees to pursue meaningful professional growth. Designed to support a wide range of development activities, the program helps employees strengthen their skills, expand their expertise, and advance toward their full professional potential. Whether through workshops, research projects, coursework, or other developmental experiences, the IDA Program empowers participants to invest in their future and enhance their contributions to their campus communities.

Funding for the IDA Program is made possible through labor-management resources negotiated under Article 21 of the Agreement between the State of New York and United University Professions. Administered through the Statewide Joint Labor-Management Committees, this program reflects a shared commitment to fostering continuous learning, career advancement, and professional excellence across SUNY institutions.

For more information access the [Guidelines for the IDA Program](#). The [Individual Development Award Application](#) must be submitted to benefits@oneonta.edu by **March 25, 2026** or in person at **Sherman Hall, Room 319**.



Professionals' Workplace Survey

We're calling on all professionals to take a few minutes to complete the UUP Statewide Survey. Your responses help us communicate the labor conditions in our workplace and ensure statewide leadership understands what support we need.

[Take the Survey »](#)

AI Reporting Form

If your department or campus is utilizing or has expressed interest in utilizing Artificial Intelligence (AI) or Generative Artificial Intelligence (GAI) applications or tools in your work.

[Report Form »](#)

Articles

ICE and the Crisis of Our Times: UUPers Participate in Indivisible Alliance **By Bill Simons, UUP Oneonta Secretary**

These are not ordinary times. In conjunction with the leaders of other unions, State UUP President Fred Kowal underlines the seriousness of the situation in America 2026: "Most disturbing has been the use of deadly force by federal law enforcement, chiefly by ICE and U.S. Customs and Border Protection, including the recent murders of Renee Good and Alex Pretti in Minneapolis. Victims include those killed while in custody at

internment camps as well as those peacefully protesting or simply witnessing ICE agents conducting their 'operations.' The power of the state to kill is not one that can or should ever be used indiscriminately. Yet, that is what is happening in our country right now."

[Read the rest on the UUP Oneonta website »](#)

In Memoriam

UUP Stalwart Armand La Potin: "I Am Not Afraid"

By Bill Simons, UUP Oneonta Secretary

Remembering UUP stalwart Armand La Potin (1934–2025):

A SUNY Oneonta master teacher, prolific historian, and fearless union advocate. From mobilizing in '83 to defending campus free speech, Armand's legacy of collective action and "not being afraid" lives on.

[Read the rest on the UUP Oneonta website »](#)

Rich Tyler: A Legacy to Emulate

By Bill Simons, UUP Oneonta Secretary

Honoring the life of Rich Tyler, "Old Reliable" of UUP Oneonta.

A meticulous Treasurer, dedicated math educator, and Habitat for Humanity volunteer, Rich's 50-year legacy of union advocacy and quiet compassion defined what it means to serve one's community.

[Read the tribute on the UUP Oneonta website »](#)

Reports & Minutes

- **President's Reports:** Keep up to date on the ongoing initiatives of the Oneonta UUP Chapter by reading the [President's Reports](#).
 - **Executive Board Minutes:** Access the [Executive Board Minutes](#) to review detailed records of the [Chapter Leadership's](#) discussions and decisions.
 - **Chapter Meeting Minutes:** Here is where you can find your [Chapter Meeting Minutes](#).
 - **Labor Management Notes:** Chapter members are encouraged to stay informed by reviewing the [Labor-Management Meeting Notes](#).
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United University Professions

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