



Park West Finance
P.O. Box 20678
New York, New York 10025
www.newcaucus.org

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**PROVEN &
TESTED
LEADERSHIP**

**PUTTING
COMMUNITY
COLLEGES
ON THE
AGENDA:
In Albany,
At City Hall &
with our AFT,
AAUP & NYSUT
Affiliates**

Dear Community College Colleagues,

We write today to ask that you cast your vote for the New Caucus slate in this April's PSC election. With your support over the past six years, chapter-by-chapter, activist-by-activist, the New Caucus vision of a revitalized, democratic, fighting union has taken hold. Our caucus' commitment to community college issues is demonstrated in its roster of candidates representing full-time professors, lecturers and HEOs as well as in the part-timers and retirees positions. Two of our candidates are counselors, a particularly important asset to our slate given the importance of the counseling issue at our colleges.

Our candidates are proven leaders. We have been at the forefront of struggles on behalf of community college faculty, staff and students. New Caucus activists have a deep and well-tested dedication to the CUNY mission of open access and have led the union's fight to ensure a quality education for New York's working class and low-income communities.

The PSC/New Caucus has successfully resisted management's push for a 30-hour teaching load and for separate salary scales for the community and senior colleges. We recognize and promote the stature of community college faculty as serious scholars, researchers and teachers. In our last contract we ensured that community college junior faculty receive the same 12 hours of reassigned time as colleagues at the senior colleges. On local campuses we have forced administrations to grant more sabbaticals, to challenge the growing centralization of power by management through the grievance procedure, and to enforce the contract. We are fighting for more full-time jobs while simultaneously insisting on parity for part-timers. The provision in our last contract for a paid office hour for adjuncts is one step in this direction. New Caucus chapter leaders from five community colleges have played a crucial role in working with our constituency's leaders on the PSC Executive Council. At monthly meetings we discuss local and common concerns and address policy and strategy issues.

Under New Caucus leadership the PSC has a strong record of successes. Thanks largely to our leadership's political engagement, the City Council has been successful in restoring a series of Mayoral cuts in the budget and the Vallone Scholarships, and in working with the Higher Education committee in developing a safety-net program in response to tuition increases. Community colleges are now a top funding priority for the City Council. At the state level we have successfully lobbied the legislature for increases in base aid for Community Colleges. We are active players in NYSUT, the AFT and the AAUP, serving on committees, planning conferences and forums and ensuring that higher education issues are addressed.

**CUNY
ALLIANCE'S
CHRONIC
ABSENTEEISM
at community
college & PSC
meetings is a
legitimate
campaign
issue**

**“OUR UNION
NEEDS
STRONG,
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Where have “CUNY Alliance” community college candidates been in these collective efforts?

The Kingsborough Community College chapter chair Rina Yarmish --who is the Alliance candidate for PSC/CUNY President -- does not attend PSC community college meetings and has missed the last eighteen monthly meetings of the Delegate Assembly, the highest policy making body of the union. The other CC chapter chairs – all of them New Caucus leaders -- work tirelessly to involve their members in numerous aspects of the contract campaign, in lobbying efforts, in diversity training, in raising money for the PSC Katrina Fund, and countless other activities. But the KCC chapter chair has not only been uninvolved and critical, but also has undermined our collective work and provided inaccurate and false information to KCC faculty and staff.

The candidate for Community College Vice President and those for the Officer positions are unknown with minimal or non-existent records as leaders and active participants in the work of the PSC. We don't see or hear from them at chapter meetings or at CUNY-wide events and actions. In fact, in CUNY-Alliance's email missive on “Experienced Leadership” these candidates are not even mentioned!

In these particularly difficult times, our union needs strong, committed and experienced leaders to enable advances in the struggle for investment in public higher education, competitive salaries and workload, decent health care, faculty and staff rights, and safe and healthy campuses. As we move forward, our most formidable struggle will be to reduce the intolerable teaching load of full-time faculty. Simultaneously we must educate management about the hidden workload involved in committee service and other professional contributions that are unrecognized and thereby devalued.

The CUNY community college faculty is remarkable for its social commitment in addition to its excellence in teaching and research; the New Caucus derives much of its energy from this dedication on the part of community college leaders and activists.

We thank you for your past support and ask you to vote in April to endorse the New Caucus vision and to affirm our record of success.

In solidarity,

ANNE FRIEDMAN/ BMCC
Vice President,
Community Colleges

JAY APPLEMAN/ QCC
Candidate for Community
College Officer

LIZETTE COLON/ HOSTOS
Candidate for Community
College Officer

SUSAN O'MALLEY/ KCC
Candidate for Community
College Officer

