

# On Campus

THE NATIONAL PUBLICATION OF AFT HIGHER EDUCATION FACULTY AND PROFESSIONAL STAFF

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## OUR MISSION

The American Federation of Teachers is a union of professionals that champions fairness; democracy; economic opportunity; and high-quality public education, healthcare and public services for our students, their families and our communities. We are committed to advancing these principles through community engagement, organizing, collective bargaining and political activism, and especially through the work our members do.

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JOHN W. TOMAC

## Thinking of the long term

AS THIS ISSUE of *AFT On Campus* came together this summer, our intention was to focus on political issues that affect higher education workers and the people we serve (students, communities, employers, the nation and the world). We had hoped our story on the Higher Education Act reauthorization would provide insights on an active process. Sen. Tom Harkin (D-Iowa) oversaw hearings and the writing of a more than 700-page proposed overhaul of the act (see page 4). But alas, that bill, like so many others with this Congress, is stuck in gridlock.

The point we wanted to make seems more urgent than ever: Election season is upon us. Vote!

Every year, we see the consequences of an inattentive citizenry. Every *other* year, on the first Tuesday of November, local, state and national elections are held, and the outcomes determine not only what laws will be passed, but also whether our elected leaders will be able to work together at all. So, elections matter. Individuals have a voice.

Research shows many reasons why nearly half of eligible Americans don't vote: They're too busy. They don't pay attention to issues. They're turned off by political advertising. They think special interests and money rule. A California Voter Foundation

survey found that nonvoters are disproportionately young. These are people we can reach. Please talk to your students—as well as friends and family—about voting, and about the issues that will affect them now and for years to come.

In the past two decades, we have seen how elections matter to higher education, when states have been disinvesting in what has been long considered a public good from which all of society benefits. Today, students and families are saddled with debt that will color their life choices into future generations. “Borrowing Against the Future,” a report the AFT released earlier this year, shows shocking levels of debt and obligations to financial institutions that are making a tiny minority of people very rich at the expense of the vast majority of us. (See infographic below.)

Speaking of long terms, after 26 years of serving as managing editor of *AFT On Campus*, I am stepping down. As a chronicler of higher education trends for many years, I have never lost my sense of awe at the worlds that college faculty and staff open. It's been a pleasure to fight to preserve and expand educational opportunity with colleagues and members who inspire on a daily basis.

—BARBARA McKENNA





## Elections matter. Your vote matters. Your voice matters.

RANDI WEINGARTEN, AFT President

HIGHER EDUCATION HAS always been lauded as the stepping stone to a new life. These days, the skyrocketing cost of a college education is leaving many Americans saddled with crippling debt. For others, it is simply pushing that stepping stone out of reach.

The problem is only getting worse as students and their families are shouldering more and more of the rising costs. In 2012, Americans spent nearly \$525 billion on higher education, twice the amount spent in comparable industrialized countries. What's more, students enrolled at public colleges and universities in particular are paying an ever-larger share, according to the most recent data from the Delta Cost Project.

What is driving this discouraging trend?

Through austerity and legislative budget cuts, states have been disinvesting in higher education for many years. From fiscal year 2003 to 2012, the percentage of state funding for total revenues at public institutions fell from 31 percent to 22 percent, according to the Center for American Progress.

In Michigan, state funding for higher education has decreased by 32 percent over the past five years. In Pennsylvania, tuition at four-year public colleges and universities is the highest in the nation, and students graduate with the third-highest average debt load. In Wisconsin, long-standing underfunding has led to fewer course choices, fewer faculty members, faculty who are paid lower salaries than their peers, fewer resources and fewer student services.

Wall Street has made things worse. What some call "skim" many observers see as blatant profiteering.

In 2012, \$45 billion was spent servicing institutional debts of colleges and universities, on student loan interest payments and in profits to for-profit institutions of higher education. That's a 53 percent increase from 2002 and a whopping 9 percent of all higher education spending, just handed over to Wall Street. (See infographic on the opposite page.)

That's why the AFT, through its "Higher

Ed, Not Debt" campaign, is fighting to reclaim the promise of public education. But as our report about Wall Street skim, "Borrowing Against the Future," has demonstrated, it takes more than simply demands and facts to ensure a college education once again can be a viable pathway to a better future for all. It takes voting.

We need to send a message at the polls in November that we will not stand by and let our system of higher education become another profit center for Wall Street. We need to show our governors, our state legislators and our representatives in Congress that we

already realize that college affordability is an election issue. We can't let them run away from their non-election-year positions.

We need to tell Govs. Tom Corbett in Pennsylvania, Scott Walker in Wisconsin, Rick Snyder in Michigan and others that their chronic disinvestment in higher education is a one-way ticket out of the governor's mansion.

Elections matter. Your vote matters. Your voice matters.

In 2012, business spent \$9.5 billion on political activities—dwarfing the \$600 million spent by unions. We will never match

In 2012, business spent \$9.5 billion on political activities—dwarfing the \$600 million spent by unions. We will never match their dollar power. **What we can do is out-work and out-organize the Wall Street profiteers.**

must and will support elected officials who will invest in our nation's future by making higher education a budgetary priority.

Elections matter.

In Congress, we have been working with Sen. Elizabeth Warren to pass the Bank on Students Emergency Loan Refinancing Act to help current borrowers refinance their student loans. Unfortunately, this bill, which would allow students to do the same thing with their student loans that we all can do with our car loans and mortgages, has been blocked by politicians who work at the behest of Wall Street.

We need your vote in November to send Wall Street out of Congress.

Elections matter.

A recent study by Kent State University Professor C. Lockwood Reynolds shows that inflation-adjusted tuition at public colleges and universities is 1.5 percent lower in gubernatorial election years than in other years. What that means is that governors

their dollar power. What we can do is out-work and out-organize to elect those who care about the promise of college affordability, and we can demand that they keep their promise every day they are in office.

But we have to vote. We have to knock on doors. We have to talk to our friends, our neighbors and our families and remind them that our nation's future is too important to leave to the whims of Wall Street profiteers and greedy politicians.

You are the trusted messengers in your communities. We need you to deliver that message like never before.

I hope you will join me and your AFT brothers and sisters as we work tirelessly over the next few weeks to ensure that college affordability, and the ideal of higher education as a pathway to a better future, are priorities in this election.

We can't let the promise of higher education slip out of reach for this or any other generation of Americans.

# Can American students get a fair shot?

College affordability and accessibility take center stage in the fight for working families



BY BARBARA MCKENNA

CONTESSA JACKSON DID EVERYTHING right. Part of the first generation in her family to get a college degree, she studied for a profession in a high-demand field—health sciences—and was able to find work right after college so she could afford to make payments on \$50,000 in education debt.

Unfortunately, the jobs she found paid just \$13 an hour. Even working 70 hours a week, Jackson writes in an op-ed in the *Louisville (Ky.) Courier-Journal*, her monthly loan payments have interest charges nearly double today's market rate of 3.86 percent.

"With the interest compounding each and every month, the initial investment I made in going to college is increasing by more than \$2,000 each year, thanks to my high interest rates," Jackson says.

Robert Geremia is another professional whose life is hampered by debt repayments with high interest rates. The Washington, D.C., high school teacher and AFT member told a Senate subcommittee in June that he

is paying off \$37,000 in loans he took out to complete his master's so he could teach. He expressed his frustration that with an additional \$11,000 owed in interest, there is nothing he can do to lower his interest rate.

Geremia's remarks came just before Sen. Elizabeth Warren (D-Mass.) introduced the Bank on Students Emergency Loan Refinancing Act in the Senate, a bill that failed by just two votes to attract the 60 votes needed for cloture. The bill would allow up to 25 million borrowers to save, on average, \$2,000 over the life of their loans. To pay for it—since currently, the federal budget relies on the interest revenue—the bill would close tax loopholes benefiting millionaires and billionaires.

"It's unconscionable that, as students and families continue to struggle under a mountain of student loan debt, Republicans in the Senate chose to side with billionaires and big banks over working families by blocking the mere discussion of Sen. Elizabeth Warren's bill providing real relief to millions of Americans," said AFT President Randi Weingarten at the time.



COURTESY OF CONTESSA JACKSON

On Sept. 9, Warren again tried to bring the bill up for a vote. The Republicans blocked it. Outside the Capitol building, some of the 25 million who would benefit from the bill rallied for relief.

Americans, and especially AFT members and the people we serve, are clamoring for a comprehensive solution to the problem of college affordability and skyrocketing student debt. As the midterm elections ap-

**Contessa Jackson's high interest rates are making it harder for her to pay back her student loans.**

proach, addressing policy drags on economic recovery is part of the Democrats' 2014 "A Fair Shot for Everyone" agenda. Whether it's through raising the minimum wage, achieving pay equity for women or protecting Medicare, the focus is on ensuring that people like Jackson and Geremia—and every American who works hard—have a fair shot to succeed.

### Bolder changes ahead

Ensuring opportunity for all to benefit from higher education will take more than one bill, however. This is the year that Congress was to reauthorize the Higher Education Act, which expired at the end of 2013. It is supposed to be reauthorized every five years and represents the federal government's biggest contribution to higher education, primarily through funding and defining federal financial aid programs.

This year, Sen. Tom Harkin (D-Iowa), chair of the Senate Health, Education, Labor and Pensions Committee, had vowed to make a sweeping overhaul of the Higher Education Act his signature piece of legislation. After a legislative career dedicated to leveling the playing field for all Americans, improving access to higher education, and protecting students from fraud and abuse, Harkin is retiring at the end of this session.

Through hearings around the country over the past year, Harkin and fellow senators heard from working families and students, education experts, business interests, and organizations like the AFT that have documented the unsustainability of current practices. In June, Harkin unveiled a 785-page draft of the Higher Education Affordability Act.

Taking a different approach in the House of Representatives, legislators passed three small bills this summer but failed to seriously address the issue of student debt, to the consternation of House Democrats.

### From the Senate: A state-federal partnership

Harkin's bill focuses on four main goals: increasing college affordability, reducing student debt, holding colleges more accountable to students and the public, and improving transparency in the federal aid programs. Under the accountability mantle, the bill tackles policies to crack down on predatory practices in the for-profit education sector, which can saddle students with debt and worthless degrees.

The cornerstone of the proposal is a state-federal partnership to improve state investment in higher education. After decades of state disinvestment, this formula block-grant program could be a game



Whether it's through raising the minimum wage, achieving pay equity for women or protecting Medicare, the **election-year focus** is on ensuring that people like Jackson and Geremia—and **every American who works hard**—have a fair shot to succeed.

changer to keep tuition down, since state policy and funding levels have the greatest impact on college affordability and debt. Strengthening the partnership was a key recommendation of the AFT in a letter it sent to Capitol Hill in March.

Harkin's Senate proposal also would offer year-round Pell Grants and a funding mechanism to reinvest in instruction and student support services. This measure is very important to the AFT, as it would allow Congress and the public to hold colleges accountable for their overreliance on underpaid and underresourced part-time/adjunct faculty. Contingent faculty teach the majority of courses on college campuses and comprise 73 percent of the higher ed instructional workforce.

### From the House: Baby steps

Unlike the Senate's all-encompassing approach, the three bills passed in the House this summer are limited:

- The Strengthening Transparency in Higher Education Act would give students and families better information about college costs beyond tuition and fees. It also would help make transparent facts about who teaches and the ratio of part-time instructors to full-time instructors.
- The Advancing Competency-Based Education Demonstration Project Act would encourage innovation in instruction by letting students enrolled in pilot institutions use federal student aid to pay for tuition for competency-based courses.
- The Empowering Students through Enhanced Financial Counseling Act would arm college consumers and graduates with knowledge and more financial literacy to

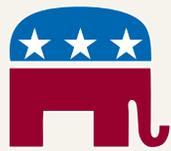
help clarify the risks of taking on debt and also would ensure more information gets to students about existing consumer protections and little-used repayment options, such as Pay As You Earn.

The Higher Education Act also lays out policy regarding accreditation and oversight, an area that the AFT has been weighing in on and monitoring closely. The House voted to extend the National Advisory Committee on Institutional Quality and Integrity and the Advisory Committee on Student Financial Assistance for one year.



In this election year, when the higher education community had hoped this Congress would have already accomplished a reauthorized Higher Education Act, the work still lies before us. All the more reason for each of our members to remind students, friends, neighbors and family to vote on Nov. 4 to ensure that we retain a Democratic majority in the Senate to pass this pivotal piece of legislation next year.

Sen. Elizabeth Warren listens intently to Washington, D.C., teacher Rob Geremia as he testifies before the Senate Banking Subcommittee on Financial Institutions and Consumer Protection.



# STATE OF THE UNION

WHEN UNION MEMBERS and their families turn out on Election Day, candidates who are with us on issues of importance to working families usually win.

But when turnout is low among union members and households, the results can be ugly. Just look at 2010, when an anti-working-family majority—many of them supported by the tea party—seized control of the House of Representatives, drastically reduced a Democratic, pro-worker majority in the Senate, and won a number of key governors' races. The result was an avalanche of anti-union,

anti-worker legislation in states across the country and total gridlock on Capitol Hill.

The country can't afford a repeat of 2010. In a Labor Day message to members, AFT President Randi Weingarten outlined the union's vision to reclaim the promise of America. Our fight is about more than elections, but what happens on Nov. 4 can send a powerful message moving forward.

"As a union, we are fighting back against the relentless attacks on our jobs, our families and our communities," Weingarten wrote. "We are fighting back—whether it's against Campbell Brown's efforts to strip

teachers of their due process rights and pit teachers against parents; corporate hospital chains seeking to enrich themselves at the expense of patients and healthcare professionals; politicians like Kansas Gov. Sam Brownback, who never met a public school, public service or public employee he didn't want to eliminate; or those saddling students with debt, ripping them off and 'Wal-Martizing' the higher education workforce."

For working families and the issues we care about, the stakes are huge this year, so it's vital to elect candidates who support

## 2014 GOVERNOR RACES

Dozens of high-stakes governor races are on tap in November. In addition to the races highlighted below, other states being closely watched include Kansas, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, Rhode Island and Texas.

### CONNECTICUT

Democratic Gov. Dannel P. Malloy and Lt. Gov. Nancy Wyman treat public employees as partners, not impediments, and they have a solid record of progress to show for it. Malloy has negotiated job, benefit and pension protections with public employee unions. He won an increase in the state's minimum wage and enacted groundbreaking legislation to help fund decent retirements for private sector workers without strong pensions. Following the Sandy Hook school shootings, Malloy established an assistance fund to help teachers, first responders, forensic analysts and other government workers called to action.

### FLORIDA

Republican Gov. Rick Scott has made his mark on Florida in recent years—and it's one that Floridians won't soon forget or quickly forgive. During his term, Scott drained more than \$1 billion from public schools to bankroll new corporate tax breaks. The first law he signed established a punitive teacher evaluation system, and he inked a bill to create a statewide school voucher system. Teachers and public employees across the state are lining up in force to elect Charlie Crist as the next governor.

### ILLINOIS

Democratic Gov. Pat Quinn has fought for strong schools, high-quality public services and workers' fundamental right to speak with a collective voice—and AFT members are part of a broad coalition that is standing behind that record. The incumbent has drawn endorsements from labor, education and progressive groups. His billionaire opponent, Bruce Rauner, has demonized public employees and worked to dismantle unions; Rauner also has gone on record saying public employees are overpaid by nearly 25 percent.

### MICHIGAN

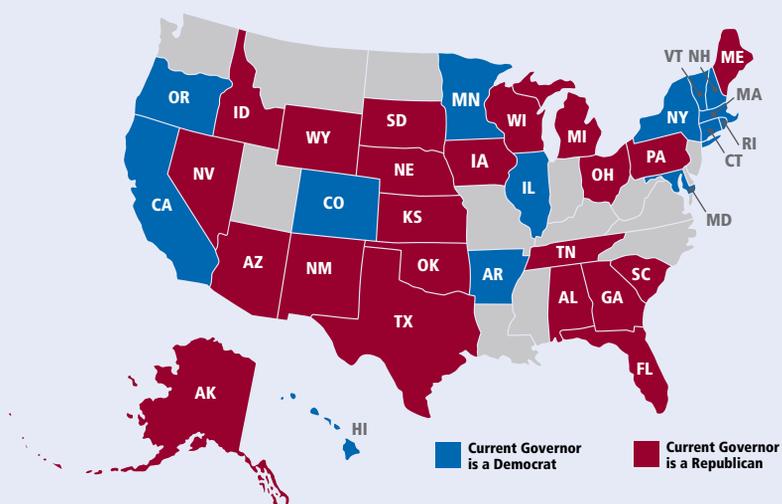
Voters in Michigan will have a clear choice when Mark Schauer seeks to unseat incumbent Republican Gov. Rick Snyder in the November election. Schauer has called for the state to do more when it comes to funding education at all levels. A former U.S. representative and the first to vote in Congress for the Lilly Ledbetter Fair Pay Act, Schauer also has made women's economic and civil rights, as well as Snyder's support of "right to work," major issues in his campaign. Snyder has cut more than \$1 billion from education and signed legislation that limits women's access to healthcare.

### PENNSYLVANIA

At its heart, the Pennsylvania gubernatorial race is a referendum on public education. Incumbent Republican Gov. Tom Corbett has cut more than \$1 billion in education funding. He has tripled corporate tax breaks, while proposing cuts of as much as 40 percent to teachers' and public workers' retirement security. Democratic challenger Tom Wolf is mobilizing effectively across the state thanks in large part to his pledge to reinstate fair funding for public education.

### WISCONSIN

There's no doubt Republican Gov. Scott Walker's attacks on public employees have ushered in a climate of intimidation and fear in the public sector. Under Walker, Wisconsin job growth ranks at the bottom nationally. He cut more people from Medicaid than any other state while heaping tax breaks on corporations and the wealthy. Now, Walker faces a strong challenge from Democrat Mary Burke, a former business executive and Madison school board member.



workers and public services in as many places as possible. We support candidates who are focused on economic fairness, high-quality healthcare and strong public education, and oppose candidates whose agenda includes building an economy that favors the powerful and dismantling public education and public services. The choices are clear.

In the Senate, it is critical that Democrats maintain a majority because a Republican-controlled House of Representatives, which is likely to continue, will keep passing legislation that would be devastating to workers' rights, healthcare, economic justice and civil rights. Eight or nine races will probably determine control of the Senate, with most of those involving seats now held by Democrats, and many taking place

in states that are traditionally Republican and lack strong unions.

Among governors, where Republicans currently hold 29 posts, there are huge opportunities to unseat some of the Republican incumbents who have led the movement to attack labor and working families since the 2010 elections.

Obviously, what happens in the House is also important, as are state legislative elections and other statewide races, ballot initiatives, and on down to school board and other local elections. There are far too many races to mention individually, but a few to watch include U.S. Rep. Tim Bishop's tough re-election fight in New York's first district; state legislative contests in Minnesota, New Mexico, Ohio and Oregon, where pro-public-education, pro-work-

ing-family candidates stand to make significant gains; the race for California's superintendent of public instruction, where incumbent Tom Torlakson, a strong ally of public school educators, faces a challenge from a well-funded charter school executive; and the campaign to stop Missouri's anti-teacher-tenure measure.

As Weingarten says: "Our strength and the strength of the labor movement has never been our dollar power. It's been our people power." With that in mind, thousands of AFT members around the country will be making calls, knocking on doors and attending community events between now and Election Day to make sure the candidates who stand up for us are successful.

## 2014 SENATE RACES

**Control of the U.S. Senate will be determined in several key races across the country, including the races highlighted below. Other key Senate races include Arkansas, Iowa, Louisiana, North Carolina and West Virginia.**

### ALASKA

Alaska has one of the most closely watched Senate races in the country, and Senate control could hang on Democrat Mark Begich's ability to win re-election. Begich, first elected in 2008, is in a tight race with Republican challenger Dan Sullivan. Among other issues, Begich has supported higher funding for school counselors and technical education programs, as well as increased support for the state's rural schools. Begich's AFT voting record is 93 percent.

### COLORADO

Democrat Mark Udall is hoping to continue his family's long-running history of public service by winning a second term in the Senate. He faces a strong challenge from Republican U.S. Rep. Cory Gardner. With Gardner gaining some notoriety for his support of "personhood" proposals, which could end up banning many common forms of birth control, women's and reproductive rights are playing a role in the election. For his part, Udall supports comprehensive immigration reform, raising the minimum wage and fully funding important federal education programs. Udall's AFT voting record is 96 percent.

### MICHIGAN

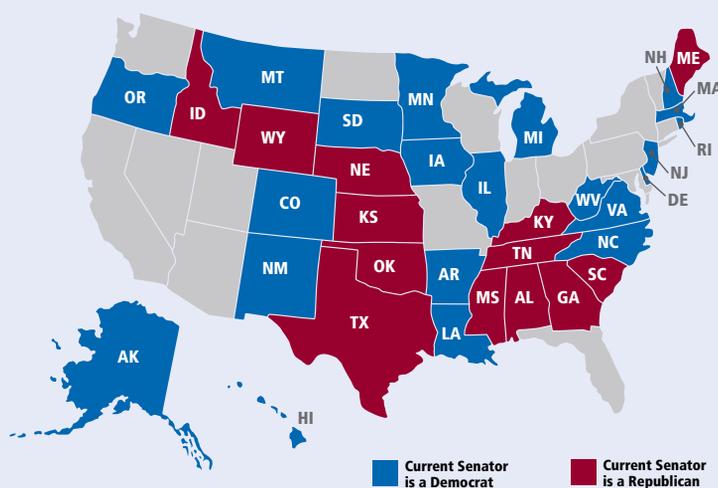
With Democratic Sen. Carl Levin retiring, the contest for this open seat pits Republican Secretary of State Terri Lynn Land, an outspoken critic of the auto rescue package, against Democratic U.S. Rep. Gary Peters, a strong voice for Capitol Hill action to save jobs in the auto industry. Sharp contrasts on gender equity also factor into the race: Peters co-sponsored the Paycheck Fairness Act to ensure equal pay for equal work; Land said she would have voted against the bill. Peters' AFT voting record in the House is 100 percent.

### MINNESOTA

Since winning his Senate seat in 2008 after an eight-month recount battle, former comedian Al Franken, a Democrat, has proved himself to be a serious, hard-working legislator. His opponent is Republican investment banker Mike McFadden, who has attracted some unwanted attention because the company he works for is headquartered in Bermuda to avoid paying U.S. taxes. Franken serves on the Senate Health, Education, Labor and Pensions Committee and has earned a 100 percent AFT voting record.

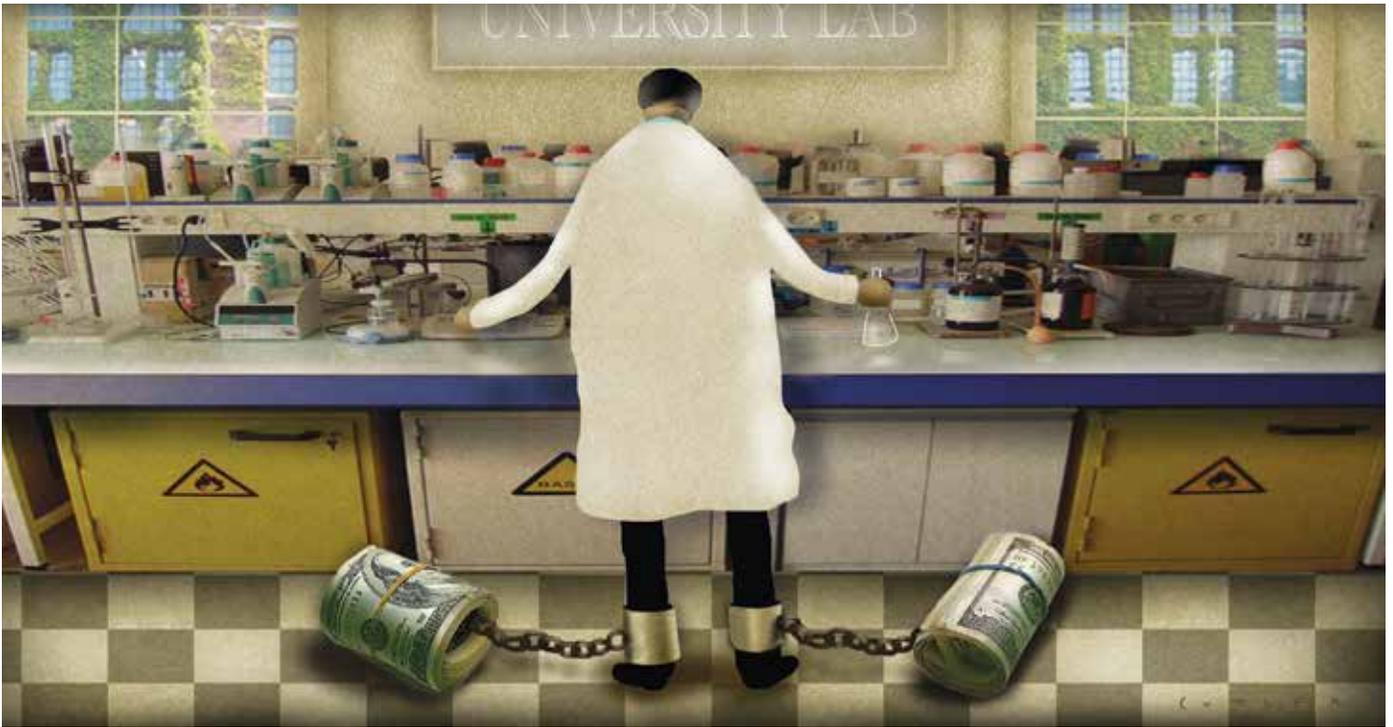
### MONTANA

The Montana Senate race gives AFT members a chance to vote from the heart and close to home. The Democratic candidate is state legislator Amanda Curtis, a Butte High School math teacher, a member of the AFT's K-12 program and policy council, and a proud member of her local and MEA-MFT. Curtis is waging an intense, grass-roots campaign—one that is long on member enthusiasm for her message of access and opportunity in education and society, says MEA-MFT President Eric Feaver, who is also an AFT vice president. "Amanda's primary goal is 'be authentic,' and she's achieved it—a middle-class teacher with college debt living in a modest home who goes before voters because she wants to make a difference."



# Bad Science

Free-market academic research policies  
have unleashed medical quackery and scientific fraud



BY LLEWELLYN HINKES-JONES

AT THE HEART of the U.S. healthcare system's profit-based approach to medical science is the harsh truth that money alone can prolong life. Take, for example, the class of genes dubbed "tumor suppressors." Because of their ability to regulate cell growth, tumor suppressors are at the forefront of cancer-prevention research. A positive test for mutations in a tumor suppressor gene like BRCA1 or BRCA2 is a leading indication of high risk for breast or ovarian cancer.

But despite the potential life-saving importance of the discovery, the cost of the BRCA1 and BRCA2 test is prohibitively expensive. At \$4,000 a test, it is four times that of a full genetic sequencing. The only reason the price for a potentially life-saving evaluation could be this outrageous is due to the actions of one company, Myriad Genetics. While the Supreme Court recently struck down Myriad's claim to the BRCA1 and

BRCA2 genes, declaring that human genes can't be patented, Myriad continues to assert its monopoly on the test for susceptibility to breast cancer.

What's even more egregious about Myriad's price gouging is that many of the costs of developing the BRCA1 and BRCA2 test have already been paid for by the public. The research to identify those genes as cancer triggers was publicly funded through the University of Utah School of Medicine. Myriad Genetics was simply a startup founded by researchers at the university to take possession of the patent after the test's discovery. And it was only because of the Bayh-Dole Act that this could take place.

At the time of its passage, the 1980 Bayh-Dole Act was intended to drive innovation in academic research. By removing restrictions on what universities could do with their scientific discoveries, it would ostensibly bring more money to the university system. To pay for their work, academic research facilities could now sell off their patents or hand out exclusive licenses to private industry. With a monopoly on intellectual property provided by the patent, the private sector would have an incentive to quickly develop those

patents into advanced consumer products and services.

The supporters of Bayh-Dole claimed that the opportunity to make more money would push academic science to make more discoveries and encourage private industry to bring more of those discoveries to market. Not long after its passage, the financial repercussions were already being realized. Researchers at Columbia University applied for patents on the process of DNA cotransformation, known as the Axel patents, that would eventually earn the university hundreds of millions in licensing fees. The Cohen-Boyer patent on recombinant DNA would earn Stanford University more than \$200 million. Along with the 1980 *Diamond v. Chakrabarty* Supreme Court decision that allowed biomedical material to be patented, it was the beginning of the biotech boom. Universities scrambled to build advanced research labs to make new claims on intellectual property from software to DNA sequencing that could be patented and sold to the public.

Previously, discoveries made by public universities could only be given out to private industry through nonexclusive licenses. Private entities could develop new drugs and

*Llewellyn Hinkes-Jones is a Washington, D.C.-based writer and journalist. This article is reprinted by permission from Jacobin Magazine, Issue 14, 2014.*

new inventions based on groundbreaking research, but so could any other company. The supporters of Bayh-Dole argued that this grace period was essentially a disincentive to innovate. If one company didn't have exclusive rights to an invention, then there was little money to be made in its development. Why bother innovating if the competition could do the same and eat away at the potential profit margin? Inventions would be left to "rot on the shelf."

### The decline of university research

Yet what might seem like an arcane bit of legal minutia related to intellectual property is at the forefront of the university research system's decline. The public-license restriction protected academic research from descending into an intellectual-property gold rush. Removing it has unleashed a flood of capital from private industry eager to possess a monopoly on cutting-edge scientific advancements. Private bodies now help fund academic institutions in return for priority in the process of "tech transfer"—the exclusive licensing of publicly funded research to private industry. Giant pharmaceutical conglomerates like Merck and GlaxoSmithKline fund partnerships with private and state universities on projects to research currently incurable diseases, with the explicit stipulation that those companies will reap the benefits by obtaining exclusive licenses on any forthcoming discoveries. Those discoveries, whether they are related to the original aim of the project or not, are then turned into overpriced, brand-name pharmaceutical drugs.

Not only do patents push higher prices onto consumers, they burden the research world with the increased costs of paying for the intellectual property needed to do further research. Research labs have to pay thousands of dollars for the strains and processes needed to build upon current developments, adding more costs to cutting-edge research. The profit-driven atmosphere of the current research system is a far cry from the one Jonas Salk worked in when he discovered the cure for polio. His discovery, which affected millions around the world suffering from a debilitating disease, was effectively given away.

Though having more money invested in public education and hastening the development of new technology is ostensibly a public good, the influence of capital from private industry is largely corruptive. Combined with the sharp decline in state funding for education, Bayh-Dole has helped privatize the pub-

lic university system. Without those public funds, universities have become ever more dependent on private investment through grants and donations. And with that money comes corrosive influences on academia.

Nowhere is this conflict of interest as prevalent as in pharmacology and biotechnology. Academics in those fields are commonly paid to sign their names to ghostwritten journal articles, promote drugs and discover drugs based on market potential rather than the public good. They earn outsized consulting fees and lucrative speaking deals at industry-funded conferences in exchange for their compliance. In the case of Pfizer and its anticonvulsant drug Neurontin, academics were paid \$1,000 a paper to sign their names to journal articles written by unknown medical ghostwriters and to speak at conferences extolling the virtues of a drug, initially intended for epilepsy sufferers, to



treat anything from bipolar disorder, post-traumatic stress disorder and insomnia, to restless leg syndrome, hot flashes, migraines and tension headaches. Not only are consumers misinformed about the safety and efficacy of the prescription drugs they take, but they pay the costs three times over: by funding public university research to discover these drugs, by paying the higher costs on patented drugs and by accepting the pharmaceutical industry's tax write-offs for their university sponsorships.

Even with limited public funding and an increased dependence on private financing, universities haven't stopped spending, particularly on new facilities. A McGraw-Hill Construction survey estimated that more than \$11 billion had been spent on construction by higher education institutions between 2010 and 2012. By floating massive bonds to pay for new biomedical research facilities and state-of-the-art gymnasiums, schools hope to at-

tract the students, star researchers and funding that will help pay for it all. But these schools have wildly overcommitted themselves, and by doing so they've entered into a vicious cycle. They are spending massively to do research that can attract the grants and land the intellectual property jackpot to pay for the bloated administrative costs and massive debt they've incurred. (See page 2, "Borrowing Against the Future.")

### The burden on students

The burden of this scramble for money and fame is left on the students. Over the last 30 years, tuition costs have increased sixfold. There are fewer and fewer postgraduate opportunities, even in the world of academic research where so much is being spent. The flood of private money coming to the research system hasn't made its way to expanding academic careers. Instead of employing

more staff scientists, underpaid postdoctoral students are hired for half the cost to produce the eye-catching research that attracts grant money. Those students then go on to graduate into a science field flooded with other postdocs who are in direct competition for the dwindling number of established research positions available. The result is a highly competitive job market where too many are left fighting for fewer positions.

Across the whole university system, the pressure to cut costs means that tenure-track positions are being replaced by adjuncts with low pay and no job security as the salaries of administrators and college presidents soar.

In what Georgia State University economics professor Paula Stephan has referred to as an academic pyramid scheme, the resulting discrepancy between underpaid postdocs and adjuncts with minimal career prospects, and the diminishing number of tenured, well-paid and established star scientist positions,

mimics a tournament structure for scientific inquiry. It is a cutthroat beauty-contest atmosphere that takes its toll on the science being done. More and more earth-shattering studies by star scientists need to be published in prominent journals to garner the attention and the grants required to keep up appearances and keep the lights on in the lab. In Stephan's words, "Bigger is seen as better: more funding, more papers, more citations and more trainees—regardless of whether the market can sustain their employment."

The end result is a greater imperative not just to publish or perish, but to publish groundbreaking, provocative insights into our understanding of the world around us that require further investigation in highly respected journals—or perish. In the words of Stephen Quake, professor of bioengineering at Stanford, it is "funding or famine." Within that decision matrix, the incentive to falsify findings, cut corners and cherry-pick data becomes stronger. Academics feel pressure to do whatever it takes to get more papers out

significant effect. The benefits of regular mammograms have been called into question as the results of the Canadian National Breast Screening Study showed no decline in the rate of mortality from breast cancer owing to their use, and that regular testing sometimes led to overdiagnosis.

While there is certainly still a center of reputable, respectable and reproducible science, it is surrounded by a cloud of inaccuracy and chicanery. Enthusiastic discoveries about possible cancer cures are swallowed whole and regurgitated by a media, desperate for content, that is unwilling or unable to decipher the false leads, flawed methodology and erroneous statistics used to get those results. The public's understanding of controversial topics like genetically modified organisms and endocrine disruptors is muddled further by the release of inaccurate studies supporting each disputed side. Those stories are then turned into short-lived diet fads and health scares, like those linking autism to vaccinations at birth.

tion in their air—has more opportunity to continue unabated. Researchers desperate for funding to maintain their positions and sustain their work are more susceptible to financing from industries eager to distort science to their own whims. It only encourages the perverse incentives of the free market to take advantage of what were once public institutions. Eventually, the market-based approach to academic research ceases to be about science and becomes about attracting attention and money under the gloss of scientific research.

If anything, the neoliberal approach to academic research is a return to the privately funded, pre-tenure origins of the university system, when numerous schools were simply research labs and promotional arms for private industry rather than institutions of knowledge advancing science in the public interest. Back then, professors worked at the behest of the school's donors and board of trustees. They could be easily fired for outspoken criticism or for publicizing research that affected the school's or their donors' bottom line. Supporting labor rights, advocating for socialist policies, believing in evolution, advocating against slavery, or informing the public about the toxic consequences of copper smelting fumes, could lead to instant dismissal. Thorstein Veblen went so far as to acknowledge an unspoken blacklist among academics:

"So well is the academic blacklist understood, indeed, and so sensitive and trustworthy is the fearsome loyalty of the common run among academic men, that very few among them will venture openly to say a good word for any one of their colleagues who may have fallen under the displeasure of some incumbent of executive office."

With tenure and public funding, researchers could speak freely and focus on topics that avoided short-term, consumer-based, money-making propositions. Advancements that might not have an immediate profit potential could be developed without a constant need to publish or perish. In the postwar era, government investment in academia and research led to many of the innovative breakthroughs we take for granted today. What so many have ascribed to the advancements of the digital revolution, from the Internet and GPS to the DNA sequencing found in the Axel patents, were once large-scale, government-funded projects developed at universities and begun decades before the Bayh-Dole agreement.

Despite the claims of Bayh-Dole proponents, those inventions have not been left on the shelf to rot.

## The overwhelming number of retractions due to **flawed methodology, flawed approach and general misconduct** over the last decade is staggering.

the door and more grants coming in. It has come to a point where they are insisting "there is no cost to getting things wrong. The cost is not getting them published."

The results are readily apparent. The overwhelming number of retractions due to flawed methodology, flawed approach and general misconduct over the last decade is staggering. Stories in almost every field have seen a rash of inaccuracies. The percentage of scientific articles retracted because of fraud has increased tenfold since 1975. Only a fraction of heart disease and cancer studies have held up to scrutiny as their results were not reproducible. The free-radical theory of aging, once a well-regarded theory of how antioxidant enzymes affect cell life, has been thrown out, along with the USDA's guidelines for measuring antioxidants in food. This, in turn, has called into question the whole supplemental vitamin industry, which is based in large part on the need for more antioxidants. The positive effects of omega-3 fatty acids on everything from cancer prevention to brain development have been challenged after follow-up stories showed no

Results that are quick to produce and quick to publish are more likely to be inaccurate. Proper science takes time, and refuting flawed science can take even longer. While it took more than nine months to disprove a recent genetic test for autism, it took only three days for the original study to go from submission to print. In that time, few of those who heard the exciting news of the initial discovery will likely hear of the disappointment surrounding its correction. When a paper is published trumpeting the discovery of a genetic test for longevity, it immediately inspires cottage industries dedicated to providing longevity exams. When that paper is retracted—not because of fraud or misconduct but because of a flawed approach—those genomic testing operations don't necessarily disappear overnight. They survive in a gray-market economy that profits off the public's lack of knowledge of current scientific research.

The privatization of academic research not only hinders the scientific process, it also means that direct corruption—where scientists are paid off by private industry to deceive the public about toxins in their food or pollu-



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\* New York State United Teachers members have insurance programs and a legal services program through NYSUT Member Benefits Trust. To obtain more information about these plans, members can call 800-626-8101.

<sup>1</sup> Certain restrictions, limitations, and qualifications apply to these grants. Additional information and eligibility criteria can be obtained at [UnionPlus.org/Assistance](http://UnionPlus.org/Assistance). Credit approval required. Terms & Conditions apply. Union Plus Credit Cards issued by Capital One, N.A.

<sup>†</sup> Washington State Nurses Association members have access to credit card and mortgage offerings through WSNA Membership Benefits. To obtain more information, members can visit [www.wsna.org/membership/benefits/](http://www.wsna.org/membership/benefits/). Ohio Nurses Association members have access to credit card offerings through ONA Membership Benefits. To obtain more information, please visit [www.ona.org](http://www.ona.org).



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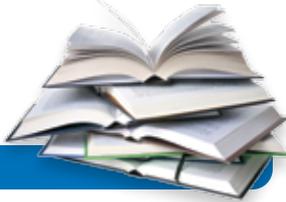
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Program information current as of July 2014. For updates and details, visit [www.aft.org/benefits](http://www.aft.org/benefits), or call 800-238-1133, ext. 8643.

The AFT has numerous endorsed programs for which it receives expense reimbursements. All payments to the AFT are used solely to defray the costs of administering the AFT + Member Benefits programs and, where appropriate, enhance them.

# Fighting back, fighting forward

A bold call to reclaim the promise of America



AFT PRESIDENT Randi Weingarten kicked off the AFT national convention in Los Angeles with a bold plan to reclaim the promise of America, one that can help create economic and educational opportunity for all because it not only fights back but also “fights forward.”

This work is vital, and the stakes couldn’t be higher, Weingarten told more than 3,500 attendees in an address that cast the current environment as a time of well-funded, well-coordinated attacks against working people, unions, public education and public services. These efforts are designed to destroy rather than to build, she said. Their goal is to starve public institutions, demonize workers and unions, and peddle private alternatives—while marginalizing anyone who opposes them.

The message was one that resonated for the hundreds of higher education delegates in attendance. They packed a divisional meeting, hearing from experts on state disinvestment in higher education and the inequities facing contingent faculty. They also vigorously testified on resolutions.

“We can feel passionately about our issues,” said AFT Higher Education program

and policy Chair Sandra Schroeder, who was officiating at her last convention divisional meeting before retiring. “These are not just policies, not just numbers. They’re about how people live, and how we grow and die.”

As delegates convened in the state whose master plan for higher education was once a model for the nation, one speaker noted that the idea that college should be free is as

**“We can feel passionately about our issues. These are not just policies, not just numbers. They’re about how people live, and how we grow and die.”**

—AFT VICE PRESIDENT SANDRA SCHROEDER

sound today as it was in the 1960s. Yet, disastrously, “the deep and unrelenting cuts that states have faced leave us just steps away from turning higher education into a

Pictured left to right: The Garibay sisters share their immigration success stories; actress and activist Cynthia Nixon; retiring PPC Chair and AFT Vice President Sandra Schroeder with Lacy Barnes, president of the State Center Federation of Teachers (Fresno, Calif.); California Gov. Jerry Brown; AFT President Randi Weingarten; the Rev. Dr. William Barber; U.S. Rep. Judy Chu (D-Calif.); and Donna Brazile, Democratic Party activist and co-chair of Democrats for Public Education.

private good,” said Mark Huelsman, a senior policy analyst with Demos.

Huelsman, Huy Ong, who is an organizer with Jobs with Justice, and the AFT’s Chris Goff shared what’s being done to counter that with efforts such as the “Higher Ed, Not Debt” campaign and the Campaign for a Debt-Free Future.

Another higher education panel, “Ending the Contingent Labor Model in Higher Education,” featured local officers from affiliates that have succeeded in improving the voice and working conditions of nontenure-track faculty. A special presenter was Sara Horowitz, founder and executive director of the Freelancers Union. On July 11, the AFT and the Freelancers Union announced a partnership that will give contingent faculty access to benefits and a broad community of part-time workers.

## Resolutions chart a future course

Back on the convention floor, delegates passed three higher education resolutions and a special order of business on contingent labor, student debt, teacher training assessment, and fair and appropriate accreditation.

“Just when everyone is saying that higher education is more important than ever, we are disinvesting in the very people who have become the most responsible for educating today’s students,” said John Miller, a delegate from the University Professionals of Illinois, speaking in support of the resolution “Ending the Exploitation of and the Reliance on a Contingent Academic Labor System in Higher Education.”

“This is simply unacceptable.”

Heidi Edwards, from the Portland Community College Federation of Faculty and Academic Professionals, pointed out that passing the resolution would affect more

“If we don’t address systemic racism and extremism and poverty, it costs us the soul of our nation.”

—THE REV. DR. WILLIAM BARBER

than just faculty. “About a third (100) of our academic professionals at PCC are contingent labor—that’s our academic advisers, counselors, student learning specialists.”

Delegates passed another resolution to benefit contingent workers, called the “Public Service Loan Forgiveness Program Eligibility for Part-Time Faculty.” It addresses a glitch in the Public Service Loan Forgiveness Program that makes it difficult for part-time workers to certify their eligibility for the loan forgiveness that other public workers have.

Delegates overwhelmingly supported a resolution to put the brakes on the adoption of a high-stakes test for schoolchildren in order to measure the effectiveness of their teachers’ training institutions. The test, known as the edTPA, is a profit-making enterprise for the behemoth Pearson company. “Faculty are not being adequately involved in the development of this teacher performance assessment,” said Jamie Dan-

gler, vice president for academics of the United University Professions at the State University of New York. The edTPA is being rolled out in New York and 30 other states, but AFT members and teachers have been able to slow implementation in New York.

“What we have here is really a mimicking in higher education of the same basic game plan carried out in K-12 education,” said Michael Fabricant, treasurer of the Professional Staff Congress at the City University of New York. The resolution is called “EdTPA and Respect for the Professionalism of Teacher Educators.”

In a special order of business, delegates unanimously passed an emergency resolution in solidarity with higher education colleagues in San Francisco who have been fighting a pernicious campaign by a small but powerful commission of accreditors that is seeking to close the City College of San Francisco. “Support Fair Accreditation and the Fight to Save Our City College of San Francisco” commits the AFT to continue the fight against the Accrediting Commission for Community and Junior Colleges’ unjust, biased actions, to protect all colleges in the region and others affected nationwide.

Convention delegates also passed a special order of business to fight the attacks on unions and teachers driving lawsuits such as *Vergara v. California* and *Harris v. Quinn*, which threaten school job security and union voice, and sustain the “deprofessionalization, privatization and test obsession” that plague public education. A resolution to support the Common Core State Standards drew passionate debate before passing. Also passed: support for immigration reform, a special order of business regarding Central American children crossing into the United States to flee violence in their home countries, a resolution to increase locals’ dues by 45 cents, and a boost for the Solidarity Fund.

But the fireworks came through an agenda full of inspiring speakers. Activists and believers like the Rev. Dr. William Barber, California Gov. Jerry Brown and AFT President Weingarten passionately declared their intentions to reclaim the promise of America.

Barber stirred the crowd with an urgent call to action. “We are in the midst of a moral crisis that demands we have a movement now,” he said. “If we don’t address systemic racism

and extremism and poverty, it costs us the soul of our nation.”

Brown, whose state has directed extra money to the neediest school districts, used the AFT’s own language: “What’s most important is reclaiming the promise of building the future, not stealing from it.”

Weingarten noted that despite devastating challenges faced by labor unions, the AFT—at 1.6 million members strong—is larger than ever before. “Our union of professionals gives us the strength and solidarity to fight for what’s right,” she said. She urged delegates to connect with their communities, pursue solution-driven unionism, and engage and empower their members.

Guest after guest joined the chorus to support public education, including actor and activist Cynthia Nixon, Los Angeles Mayor Eric Garcetti, and U.S. Reps. Mark Takano, Judy Chu and Michael Honda. Ten-year-old Asean Johnson, who has helped lead the fight for public schools in Chicago, joined teacher and union organizer Mark Levy, a veteran of the civil rights battles of the 1960s, to reclaim the promise of justice across generations. And Donna Brazile, a vice chair of the Democratic National Committee, announced the new, AFT-backed Democrats for Public Education, which she co-chairs.

To give back to their host city, AFT volunteers visited the All Peoples Community Center to distribute free groceries and books, set up healthy cooking demonstrations and direct local residents to health assessment services, helping community members connect with other social networks that will serve them well into the future. It was a perfect example of how the AFT is truly reclaiming the promise.



Delegates elected AFT officers for the next two years. They are, from left, Secretary-Treasurer Lorretta Johnson, President Randi Weingarten and Executive Vice President Mary Cathryn Ricker. Francine Lawrence, former executive vice president, retired this year.

For more on the 2014 convention, go to <http://youtu.be/7Qe00i6j5MI> or [www.aft.org/convention](http://www.aft.org/convention).

# Everyday Heroes reclaim the promise every day

Members from each division honored for going above and beyond the call of duty

## KRYSTAL WOOLSTON

When your job title has “service” in it, people expect you to be out-directed. But for Krystal Woolston, AFT Higher Education’s Everyday Hero, helping others is more than a job—it’s a calling and a gift.

Woolston is the assistant director of service learning and community engagement at Montclair State University in New Jersey. In that job, she sets up opportunities for MSU students to do service projects like tutoring middle school students in nearby Orange, N.J., becoming part of AmeriCorps and, when disaster hits, organizing relief efforts. She has also brought opportunities to volunteer at local food banks to her union, the Montclair State Faculty, Professional Staff and Librarians.

After Superstorm Sandy, she spent weekends serving up breakfast to coastal residents and reconstruction volunteers. This summer, she is working at a camp that reunites separated foster care siblings.

“Something that I love about doing service is that it’s small and personal, and it lets you get to know people on an individual level and make a difference in their lives,” Woolston told delegates at the AFT convention this summer. “I am lucky to have a job that gives me the flexibility to do this work. I thank my union for that.”



Then-AFT Executive Vice President Francine Lawrence, left, and AFT Secretary-Treasurer Lorretta Johnson, right, honored Woolston, center, and other divisions’ Everyday Heroes at the AFT convention this summer.



**RICHIE PAWLAK**—the AFT’s 2014 PSRP Everyday Hero—can’t say no to a good cause.

A computer programmer for Morton College in

Cicero, Ill., and a member of the Cook County College Teachers Union, Pawlak plays in three bands, and every October, one of them—the Mud Pie Band—helps promote Breast Cancer Awareness Day in his suburban Chicago neighborhood of Berwyn. Pawlak also solicits donations for a fundraising raffle and helps the firefighters union sell chocolate bars for the cause. Last year, the event raised more than \$10,000 to promote breast cancer awareness.

Pawlak also organizes coat drives and food drives at Morton College, where he has worked for 30 years, helps run the union’s Toys for Tots program and raises money for Alzheimer’s research.

covered the workload for a colleague who was battling cancer, and helped him with retirement papers when the illness forced him to leave work. When another colleague suffered a heart attack, Cardin worked with the union and the school system’s human resources department to secure his salary and benefits.



**LISA D’ABROSCA, STEPHANIE JOHNSON** and **HARRY RODRIGUEZ**, the presidents of Locals 5049, 5051 and 5123, which represent health-

care workers at Lawrence + Memorial Hospital in New London, Conn., modeled cooperation as they fought together this winter through a strike, a lockout and, finally, successful contract negotiations. Together they took Everyday Hero honors for AFT Nurses and Health Professionals.



**MARIA ALAMO**, a prekindergarten paraeducator from the Hempstead Teaching Assistants Association in New York, is the AFT Early Childhood

Educators Everyday Hero. She provides a crucial bridge for families whose native

language is not English, not only by helping them learn the language but also by urging them to participate at school, creating a sense of family and tuning in to individual students’ needs.



AFT Retirees’ hero **CAROL KEISER**, a retired teacher from the Rhode Island Federation of Teachers and Health Professionals, uses her 28 years of

classroom experience to mentor new teachers and help grow the membership of her local’s retiree chapter, which now has more than 2,000 members.



**JULIE AHERN**, a second-grade teacher from the Lake County Federation of Teachers in Waukegan, Ill., and the Everyday Hero of the AFT Teachers

division, finds new resources and opportunities for economically challenged families at her school, securing donations of classroom laptops and iPads, funds to restore her school’s greenhouse, and school visits from children’s literature superstars like Captain Underpants series creator Dav Pilkey.



**JIM CARDIN**, a member of the State Vocational Federation of Teachers in Connecticut, and the AFT Public Employees Everyday Hero, worked with students

to create an inexpensive foot prosthetic for civil war amputee victims in Africa. He also

**DEMAND RELEASE OF UUP MEMBER HELD HOSTAGE** Aug. 13 was a grim anniversary for Warren Weinstein, a former political science professor and United University Professions/NYSUT member at the State University of New York. Three years ago, just days before he was due to return home from a seven-year stint as an economic development consultant in Lahore, Pakistan, he was kidnapped by al-Qaida terrorists.

The last glimpse his family has had of their 73-year-old husband and father was a video released anonymously Dec. 26, 2013. It shows a gaunt and bearded Weinstein asking President Obama to negotiate for his release. It is not clear whether he is delivering his message under duress.

The United University Professions and the AFT are working to ensure Weinstein's case does not fade from view and are calling for stepped-up efforts to secure his safe release. In an Aug. 20 letter to Secretary of State John Kerry, AFT President Randi Weingarten writes, "We urge you to redouble your efforts to find Mr. Weinstein and bring him home safely to his family and community."

The UUP notes that the former SUNY College at Oswego professor is a humanitarian. "Weinstein has devoted his life to helping others since he started working as a human rights activist in 1969," says UUP President Frederick Kowal, who is an AFT vice president.

Weinstein's wife, Elaine Weinstein, and his two daughters have created a website, [bringwarrenhome.com](http://bringwarrenhome.com), that documents his story and provides links for concerned citizens to contact their members of Congress and the White House. They are working to ensure that Weinstein's dire situation remains prominent in the public eye and a priority for the U.S. government. Visit the site to add your voice on his behalf. And go to <http://bit.ly/1qLRly7> for more details and links.

**COURT TELLS ILLINOIS TO MAKE GOOD ON RETIREE HEALTH BENEFITS** Public employees in Illinois are among those in many states fighting to keep retirement benefits that were won through sweat and sacrifice at the bargaining table. And their unions are prevailing.

On Aug. 28, a circuit court judge ordered that healthcare premiums that were wrongfully increased under SB 1313, a 2013 state law, must be restored immediately to their previous rates and refunds provided. For Illinois Federation of Teachers retirees, these withdrawals were 1 to 2 percent of their pension checks.



SCREEN SHOT COURTESY OF CNN

Warren Weinstein appeals for his freedom in a video released in December 2013.

"This is a big step toward righting the wrongs inflicted upon so many people after they had dedicated their lives to public service in Illinois," says IFT President Daniel Montgomery, who is an AFT vice president.

The ruling came in response to a motion filed by the IFT and other union members, which asked the court to strike down SB 1313 based on a July judgment by the state Supreme Court. The court ruled 6-1 in *Kanerva v. Weems* that health insurance premium subsidies for retired state workers are protected under the Pension Protection Clause of the Illinois Constitution, which states that pension benefits "shall be an enforceable contractual relationship, the benefits of which shall not be diminished or impaired."

**NONTENURE-TRACK UNIT ORGANIZES AT BIG TEN CAMPUS** A new union has formed at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. A majority of nontenure-track faculty submitted authorization cards to the Illinois Educational Labor Relations Board in May, and the union, the Campus Faculty Association, representing 500 lecturers, instructors, and clinical, visiting, teaching and research faculty, was certified in July. The CFA is affiliated with the Illinois Federation of Teachers, the American Association of University Professors and the AFT.

The faculty came together with a view of the future that includes longer-term contracts, clear guidelines for promotion, higher salaries and respect as faculty, says Dorothee Schneider, history lecturer at UIUC. "We represent a very diverse community of teachers, researchers and scholars."



ROBIN SCHOLZI/NEWS-GAZETTE

"We don't have visibility," Kay Emmert told the locally based *News-Gazette*. She is a full-time lecturer in the UI's English department. "We want to feel as though we're seen and the efforts we make are seen" on campus, she said.

**A SIGN OF HOPE FOR ADJUNCTS AT TEMPLE** When the public hears about the reality of adjunct faculty's lives, the stories seem unbelievable but universal: Pay so low it can leave faculty living below the poverty level; no benefits; no assurance of a job from semester to semester; lack of resources or even a space to meet with students outside of class.

That is all true at Temple University, but now you can add hope to the picture. On Sept. 15, the United Academics of Philadelphia, AFT Local 9608, announced the launch of a card campaign to bring stability, fair compensation and union representation to the more than 1,000 faculty who teach on a contingent basis at the university. UAP is a union dedicated to making higher education careers sustainable for the 15,000 adjunct professors teaching in Philadelphia-area colleges.

Linda Lee is teaching in the Intellectual Heritage program this semester at Temple and at three other area colleges, Cabrini College, Philadelphia University and Rowan University (in New Jersey). For adjuncts in the area, she says, "Temple is one our favorite places. It's one of the places that has better compensation." Still, the university just raised its credit-hour rate to \$1,300 this year for the first time since 2010, the last time adjuncts had an organizing campaign.

"If we can improve teaching and learning conditions for adjuncts at Temple, that will have an effect at the other colleges where we teach."

Full-time tenure- and nontenure-track faculty at Temple are represented by the Temple Association of University Professions/AFT.

Kay Emmert teaches an English class at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign.

# CEO bonus does not play well in a time of deficits

AFTER FACULTY, STAFF and students at the University of Alaska rose up in outrage over news that the university president had been awarded a \$320,000 retention bonus in his new contract, the UA Board of Regents had to do an about-face. In a special meeting, the board rescinded the bonus three months after offering it.

The bonus would have been equal to one year's pay for President Patrick K. Gamble, who already is the highest-paid public employee in the state. A retired U.S. Air Force four-star general, Gamble came to the university in 2010 after nine years serving as president and CEO of the Alaska Railroad Corp. His four years at the helm of the university have seen annual budget cuts, a current deficit of \$26 million, layoffs of dozens of faculty and staff, hiring freezes that have impaired everyday operations, cuts in services to students, increased student fees, enrollment declines, and talk about a tuition increase of 4 percent next year.

In response to a request for information from the United Academics-AAUP/AFT, the regents explained that Gamble's salary is 25-28 percent under market for system presidents at comparable universities.

"I would like to point out that over one-third of United Academics faculty members are under market as well," wrote United Academics President Abel Bult-Ito in response. "But the vast majority of them did not receive an 'incentive ... to stay on board,' although most of them exceed their expectations of job performance and all of them contribute directly to the mission of the university."

On behalf of the 950 faculty represented by United Academics, Bult-Ito critiqued Gamble's performance as an administrator, communicator and leader. A shortened form of the rebuttal ran in the Fairbanks *Daily Newsminer* on Aug. 31. (Read it at <http://bit.ly/X2qhA8>.)

The pressure to rescind the bonus was more than a war of words. Activists from other labor groups, including the United Academics Adjuncts, the Alaska Public Employees Association/AFT and the Alaska AFL-CIO, raised community awareness. An online petition quickly garnered 1,478 signatures, reports Kate Quick, a member of the University of Alaska Federation of Teachers who teaches developmental English at UA Fairbanks.



TODD PARIS

Alumni, donors and community members wrote articles and letters to the editor, but the main reason for the regents' about-face, says Sine Anahita, associate professor of sociology at UA Fairbanks, was "because ordinary grass-roots people and rank-and-file members visibly organized in solidarity. Students, faculty, staff, retirees and community members joined in weekly street demonstrations at the entrance to the campus in Fairbanks. We used social media extensively to generate understanding and outrage. We embarrassed the regents into backtracking."

**Faculty and staff successfully roused the community to oppose a huge CEO bonus for the University of Alaska president.**

# Turning up the heat to reverse climate change

HUNDREDS OF AFT MEMBERS were among the 310,000 trade unionists, faith, labor, social justice, youth and environmental groups to converge on New York City Sept. 21 for the People's Climate March.

Held just before the United Nations Climate Summit and the biggest of 160 rallies held around the world, the march attracted three times the number of participants predicted. Aerial shots captured four miles of Manhattan streets and avenues packed with people, signs, two-story-high puppets and banners. The AFT members from Connecticut, New Jersey, New York, Vermont and elsewhere wore blue shirts emblazoned with "Climate Justice" and held signs reading "Climate change is real. Teach Science."

"The first step to fixing a problem is to admit you have a problem," said Chris Shelton, vice president of the Communication Workers Association District 1, kicking off a pre-march labor rally. "We all know we have the problem of global climate change. It's just Congress that hasn't figured it out!"



NAT BENDER/AFTNJ

Barbara Bowen, president of the Professional Staff Congress of the City University of New York and an AFT vice president, told labor activists: "Capitalism cannot change the problem it has created." PSC had nearly 500 members and CUNY students in the crowd.

"This is a monumental issue for labor," added Frederick Kowal, president of the United University Professions at the State University of New York and an AFT vice president. His members came from all over the state, jumping on buses provided by environmental groups like the Sierra Club.

AFT educators were among hundreds of thousands at the biggest environmental justice march in history.

Many invoked Superstorm Sandy, describing the shock, loss and heartbreak of a natural disaster that was a climate change wakeup call. "Hurricane Sandy hurt the city's minority and poor communities disproportionately," said one.

AFT members from Raritan Valley Community College in New Jersey brought along students. Philosophy professor Brandyn Heppard says his students have been making the connection "that climate justice is social justice is economic justice, and it all intersects with human rights. The poor are marginalized, and their voices are not heard, when people of power and privilege make decisions unilaterally."

In addition to faculty from the Rutgers Council of AAUP Chapters, AAUP-AFT, Rutgers University was another of the more than 300 colleges and universities that sent students to the rally.

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