lobbying in Congress and state legislatures for policies that help working families, supporting our affiliates in their efforts to bargain good contracts for their members, providing valuable and important member benefits, offering professional development to members who aren’t being well-served by their employers, and coming together in times of need—such as after Superstorm Sandy—to help our fellow AFT members.

Across the AFT and the diverse collection of educators, nurses and healthcare professionals, public employees, retirees and others who make up the union, the best way to move forward and reclaim the promise is by uniting our voices with those of students, parents, the community and others who share our vision.

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.

Randi Weingarten
PRESIDENT

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Public education, healthcare and public services are the gateways to social and economic justice and the anchors of democracy. While some are attempting to undermine the very institutions that are the foundation of our society by starving public schools, decimating public services and attempting to repeal the Affordable Care Act, we’re fighting back and fighting forward with real solutions and working with the community. We’re driving home the fact that everyone deserves a great public education—from early childhood through college—and that everyone deserves affordable healthcare and high-quality public services.

We are trying to change the conversation and ultimately reclaim the promise of America.

Throughout our long history, the AFT has been a union that works aggressively for what’s right for our members and for the diverse constituencies they serve. That can mean launching Share My Lesson, an online site for educators that now boasts 5 million downloads and 500,000 registered users. Or fighting for retirement security for all our members and for every American, including holding investment managers accountable for undermining the same public employee pensions that they profit from managing.

It can mean launching a groundbreaking effort in McDowell County, W.Va., to bring big hope to one of the poorest counties in the country by improving schools, encouraging economic development, and addressing families’ social and healthcare needs. Or protecting the promise of universal healthcare from a corporate agenda of profits, privatization and deprofessionalization. Not to mention efforts to improve early childhood education and to make sure public employees are well-prepared and supported so they can provide the services we all rely on.

Of course, the AFT also fulfills the important functions our members have come to expect: