

## Emphasis on EOPs, EOCs and UCs

# Advocates press for more aid in Albany

UUP's full-court advocacy press for additional funds for SUNY continued this past Tuesday (March 7) in Albany. A delegation of about 20 UUP members along with eight Educational Opportunity Center students traveled to the Capitol, visiting the offices of 34 state lawmakers during University College/EOP/EOC Advocacy Day.

"We continue to be underfunded. You wouldn't want to run your household like that," Dave Miller of Cortland told lawmakers.

"We don't have the facilities that we need and are not able to provide the classes many students need to graduate on time," said Cortland's David Ritchie. Karen Coutrier of Long Island EOC spoke out on behalf of her program, telling Assemblyman Thomas DiNapoli that EOCs provide low-income, at-risk students the skills they need to complete college.

The UUPers maintained the call for \$153.3 million in additional funds for SUNY, which includes additional monies for University Colleges, and additional funding for EOP and EOC beyond the small increases in the Executive Budget proposal.

Susan Hoff-Haynes of Hudson Valley EOC underscored the need for more capital funding, saying their computers are outdated, still using Windows95. "We can't tap into a wealth of material that would benefit our students," she said.

The legislators or staff members who met with the UUPers acknowledged the need for



Photo by Donald Feldstein

UUPer Karen Coutrier of Long Island EOC urges increased funding for SUNY's Educational Opportunity Centers in a meeting with Assemblyman Thomas DiNapoli during University College/EOP/EOC Advocacy Day in Albany.

additional funding. Sen. John Flanagan said he realizes the top priority is the need for more full-time faculty. Flanagan said more revenue is available as the state budget is moving along on a fast track, with budget conference committees meeting next week (week of March 13), aiming

toward passage on an on-time budget.

As the April 1st budget deadline moves closer, UUP's advocacy efforts continue, with Part-time/Retiree/NYSTI/Librarian Advocacy Day on Tuesday (March 14) followed by NYSUT's Committee of 100 March 20-21.

### Call your lawmakers

Time is running out on UUP's grassroots effort to ask lawmakers to add \$153.3 million to the state budget for SUNY's 29 state-operated campuses.

UUP is asking students and parents of SUNY students to call or fax their state legislators, urging them to approve the additional funding. Postcards have been distributed to student groups, informing students and parents that they can use a toll-free number, (877) 255-9417, to register their support, or visit the union's Web site where they can find a prepared letter they can fax to lawmakers.

Lawmakers are expected to begin finalizing terms of a state budget next week with the goal of passing

a new spending plan by the start of the state's new fiscal year on April 1.

### Nursing Conference registration deadline extended

UUP will host a nursing conferences scheduled for March 31 at UUP headquarters.

For more information on the UUP conference, contact UUP Secretary Eileen Landy at elandy@uupmail.org, or by telephone at (800) 342-4206.

Registration forms are due March 24 and are available on the UUP Web site at [www.uupinfo.org](http://www.uupinfo.org).

### Reminders/Upcoming meetings:

#### March

**10-11**—Leadership Workshops, Cooperstown

**14**—Part-timer/Retiree/NYSTI/Librarian Advocacy Day, Albany

**17-18**—Chapter Presidents Retreat, Bolton Landing

**20-21**—NYSUT Committee of 100, Albany

**31**—UUP Executive Board meeting, Albany

#### April

**21-22**—2006 Spring DA, Albany