This is the latest in a special series of UUPconnect issues dedicated to sharing important coronavirus-related information with UUP members.

COVID-19: The Numbers

More than 271,500 confirmed cases in New York state; more than 150,000 cases in New York City

More than 15,000 deaths in New York state

More than 884,000 cases in the U.S.; more than 51,000 deaths

Globally, more than 2.7 million cases and more than 194,000 deaths

From Johns Hopkins University (as of April 24)

Michelle Obama encourages Downstate frontline providers in video

Former first lady Michelle Obama sent a videotaped message of encouragement and support to doctors, nurses and medical professionals caring for COVID-19 patients at SUNY Downstate Health Sciences University.

Downstate is the first hospital in New York to receive the message. In the 1-minute-27-second video, Obama said that she and President Obama are “profoundly grateful” for the “heroic work that all of you are doing right now in New York.”

“And I know you’re exhausted, and I know you must be afraid,” she continued. “But every single day, you all continue to show up and do your jobs with excellence, empathy, and unwavering devotion to every patient who walks through your doors.”

CLICK HERE to listen to Michelle Obama’s message.
Lunch, face masks for front liners in Buffalo

The Buffalo HSC Chapter delivered lunches this week to members on the front lines of the coronavirus at two Buffalo hospitals.

UUP delivered hundreds of boxed lunches—prepared by Joe's Deli in Buffalo—along with snacks and bottled water April 21 to members at Erie County Medical Center (ECMC) and Buffalo General Medical Center.

Five Buffalo HSC Chapter members, including statewide Executive Board member Tom Melendy and Chapter President Phil Glick, pose with lunches in the photo at left. From left are Toby Cronk, Roosevelt Warshaw, Melendy, Glick and NYSUT LRS Nick Whitman.

CLICK HERE to view more photos from the lunch delivery.

On April 24, UUP and NYSUT delivered a large box of surgical face masks to the chapter for use by front-line workers and UUP members at ECMC and Buffalo General. Whitman delivered the 6,000 masks to Melendy, who worked to distribute them to UUP members.

More masks for Downstate

UUP and NYSUT have sent an additional 10,000 face masks to Downstate Chapter members caring for COVID-19 patients at SUNY Downstate Health Sciences University.

The masks arrived April 22 and were accepted by Jelanie Deshong, left, Downstate's director of government relations and Daniel Graves, director of hospital admissions. The masks are in addition to 20,000 masks sent by the unions to SUNY Downstate last week.

SUNY Downstate has experienced shortages of medical masks and other personal protective equipment since the coronavirus outbreak fully hit in March. The governor designated SUNY Downstate as a COVID-19-only hospital in March.

Surgical masks for UMU

Upstate Medical University members on the front lines of the coronavirus pandemic received 10,000 surgical
Upstate Medical University Chapter President Rich Veenstra, right, helps move a huge box of cellophane-wrapped masks delivered to the hospital.

CLICK HERE to view photos.

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**Intellectual property bulletin**

UUP this week issued a special bulletin to members regarding intellectual property concerns raised by the expansion of online and remote education due to the coronavirus.

CLICK HERE to read the bulletin.

UUP is concerned that some campuses have increased efforts to have faculty create courses that will become the intellectual property of the campus—and not the member who created it.

While some employees may willingly and knowingly agree to transfer their intellectual property rights in exchange for a fee, UUP is increasingly concerned about campuses offering course agreements without full disclosure of their implications and without providing the employee the possibility of discussing alternative agreements.

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**Tele-town halls**

UUP will hold four tele-town halls in May to allow members to offer their input during a solution-driven discussion on the impact of coronavirus on higher education and economics at the state and national levels.

The tele-town halls will take place on these days:

- 11 a.m., Thursday, May 7
- 3 p.m., Wednesday, May 13
- 6:30 p.m., Tuesday, May 19
- 11 a.m., Thursday, May 21

CLICK HERE to register to participate in one of the tele-town halls.
The tele-town halls will include brief presentations on the overall economic perspective of where we are as a state and as a nation, as well as an overview on higher education funding trends in New York state and nationwide. We will then open discussions to members for a solution-driven discussion.

Members should choose just one tele-town hall to participate in to allow as many members as possible to become involved.

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Tell Congress: Help NY in new coronavirus stimulus package

Our nation is at war against COVID-19 and New York state is the epicenter of this crisis. Our state desperately needs significant resources and it needs them now.

Send an e-letter to your congressional representatives and tell them to act now on a new COVID-19 mitigation package that provides crucial support to New York state.

CLICK HERE to send the e-letter.

If you’re on Facebook or Twitter, please check out UUP’s social media toolkit, which has sample tweets and Facebook posts to get your friends and family to send an e-letter to Congress.

CLICK HERE to download the social media toolkit.

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Help your local food bank

Food banks across the country are struggling to keep their shelves full as they deal with skyrocketing demand during the coronavirus outbreak.

Tens of millions of working-class Americans who are out of work due to COVID-19 shutdowns and quarantines are struggling to make ends meet and put food on the table. Many have turned to food banks for help.

Please consider giving to a local food bank or food assistance program if you’re able to do so. Go to FeedingAmerica.org to find a local food bank or food assistance program.

CLICK HERE to go to FeedingAmerica.org.
UUP is providing free hotel rooms for UUP members who are essential employees at hospitals in Buffalo, Brooklyn, Stony Brook and Syracuse.

The union began providing housing in early April to members caring for COVID-19 patients at SUNY academic medical centers in Brooklyn, Stony Brook and Syracuse, as well as Buffalo-area medical professionals who are members. The union is covering the full cost for rooms, including tax, for up to seven nights.

To request a room, contact UUP Director of Meetings and Travel Mary Bergquist at mbergqui@uupmail.org.

The Marriott, Hilton and Hyatt hotel chains are also offering no-cost rooms to front-line hospital workers, first responders and other essential workers. The American Hospitals Association has details about these programs as well as several other discounts for front-line providers. Click here for more information.

Stony Brook May Day workshop

You can celebrate May Day by learning about union organizing on campus.

The Stony Brook Chapter is offering an online workshop, “Campus Organizing 101,” that will help participants identify issues affecting the union and devise strategies to address those issues quickly and collaboratively.

The workshop starts from noon to 1 p.m., Friday, May 1.

Click here to sign up for the workshop.

Workers Memorial Day Mass

The Catholic Labor Network will live-stream a memorial mass for fallen workers on Workers Memorial Day.

The Mass will be celebrated 3 p.m. Tuesday, April 28. The Rev. Sinclair Oubre from the Seafarers Union will serve as celebrant; The Rev. Clete Kiley of UNITE HERE will offer the homily.

Click here to view the Mass.
The Labor and Employment Relations Association has slated a series of webinars focused on higher education, collective bargaining and the impact of COVID-19.

Additional webinars will be announced over the next several weeks. Here’s what’s slated for May:

- **Higher Ed Collective Bargaining and Shared Governance in Responding to COVID-19**: Noon-1 p.m., Thursday, May 14
  
  Panelists: Theodore H. (Terry) Curry, Michigan State University; William A. Herbert, National Center, Hunter College; and Risa L. Lieberwitz, Cornell University ILR and AAUP

- **Low-wage and Gig Work During the COVID-19 Pandemic**: Noon-1 p.m. Thursday, May 21
  
  Panelists: Janice Fine, Rutgers; David Lewin, UCLA; Sarah Thomason, University of California, Berkeley; David Weil, Brandeis University; Tashlin Lakhani; Ohio State University; Xiangmin Liu, Rutgers

[CLICK HERE](#) to register for the webinars.

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**October for National Center conference**

The National Center for the Study of Collective Bargaining in Higher Education and the Professions has rescheduled its annual conference for October.

The 47th national conference will be held either Oct. 15-16 or Oct. 19-20. It was supposed to be held in March but was postponed due to the coronavirus pandemic.

[CLICK HERE](#) for more information.