MESSAGE FROM Cecilia Cortez

As we celebrate Martin Luther King Day last month and Black History Month this month and we remember the courage and determination of the Civil Rights Movement, I want to ask you to continue to work and keep abreast of all the new information. Our strength is our power. We must continue to be actively informed in all the matters that pertain to us. That is how we will show our strength. I will continue to visit HES teachers in different boroughs. It is a real pleasure to meet all of you.

— Cecilia

“One of the great liabilities of history is that all too many people fail to remain awake through great periods of social change. Every society has its protectors of the status quo and its fraternities of the indifferent who are notorious for sleeping through revolutions. Today, our very survival depends on our ability to stay awake, to adjust to new ideas, to remain vigilant and to face the challenge of change.”

— Martin Luther King Jr.

You Should Know

Lesson plans

Lesson plans are essential tools for all teachers, no matter how new or experienced. As the educator responsible for providing classroom instruction to your students, you are responsible for developing lesson plans and you can determine their format, organization, notation and content. Your supervisor may suggest, but cannot require or insist upon, a particular format, unless you have received, or are about to receive, a U-rating.

Your supervisor may ask to see your lesson plan at any time. Don’t assume that there is a problem, but if you need help perfecting your lesson plans, ask your supervisor for suggestions. This will give you a better sense of what your supervisor’s expectations are. (For many years, supervisors collected lesson plans en masse and dictated a strict format, but that is no longer permitted as a result of contract changes in the 1990s. If your supervisor is collecting lesson plans on a ritualized basis, immediately consult your chapter leader for guidance or help with filing a grievance. The HES Chapter will help you with the grievance.)

Things to do

• Attend the meeting the HES Chapter has set up specifically for you on pensions. The meeting will be held on Wednesday, Feb. 16, 2011 from 4:00 - 6:00 p.m. at the UFT central office, 52 Broadway, 19th floor, Room D.

Next Consultation Meeting

The next consultation meeting with Ms. Kaufman is on Wednesday, March 5, 2011 at 4:00 p.m. at 400 1st Avenue in Manhattan. Please send your questions and concerns to Chapter Chair Cecilia Cortez at ccortez@uft.org.