



NEWSLETTER

Dear Friend,

Every three years, UFT members may vote for the union's leadership. Election ballots were mailed to your home on March 25. Please take a couple minutes to make your voice heard and vote in this year's election. Ballots must be returned by mail by Tuesday, April 16. Any member who fails to receive a ballot or receives an incorrect ballot should notify the American Arbitration Association at 212-233-0629 or by [email](#). *(More information about the election is below.)*



The strength of our union rests on the engaged participation of members, and voting is a centerpiece of participation. The UFT belongs to you. Our elections are the most important way that we can ensure that the UFT always embodies the values of its members.

In solidarity,

Janella Hinds, Vice President for Academic High Schools
Sterling Roberson, Vice President for Career and Technical Education

6th annual Academic High School Awards on April 12

Join us as we celebrate the commitment, dedication and success of our high schools and the union members who make them great. The Academic High School Awards Celebration is an opportunity to unwind with your colleagues for a night of festivities at the union's headquarters in lower Manhattan. The festivities begin at 4 p.m. on Friday, April 12. Please [register](#) if you plan to attend. Feel free to email [Team High School](#) if you have any questions. For more details, [see the event flier](#).

Coming Home to Teach



Lev Moscow has been teaching Social Studies at his alma mater, Beacon High School, since 2005.

He became inspired to work in public education by a project he completed his senior year at Beacon HS where he taught his class about baseball legend Jackie Robinson. The project left him "feeling that this is something I could get pretty good at ... so I had [teaching] in the back of my mind since I was 17."

When asked what advice he would give to future teachers, Lev suggested, "You have to read a lot, you have to like to read, you have to be curious. Because if you don't, everything is going to feel like work."

In addition to being an amazing teacher, Lev is also a dedicated unionist. In reflecting on the UFT's importance, Lev noted, "We get to do something socially valuable, we get a decent salary because of our union, and we have stability."

Team High School thanks Lev for his dedication to his school, students and union.

Please email [Team High School](#) if you work with a colleague who has "come home to teach."

Election procedures

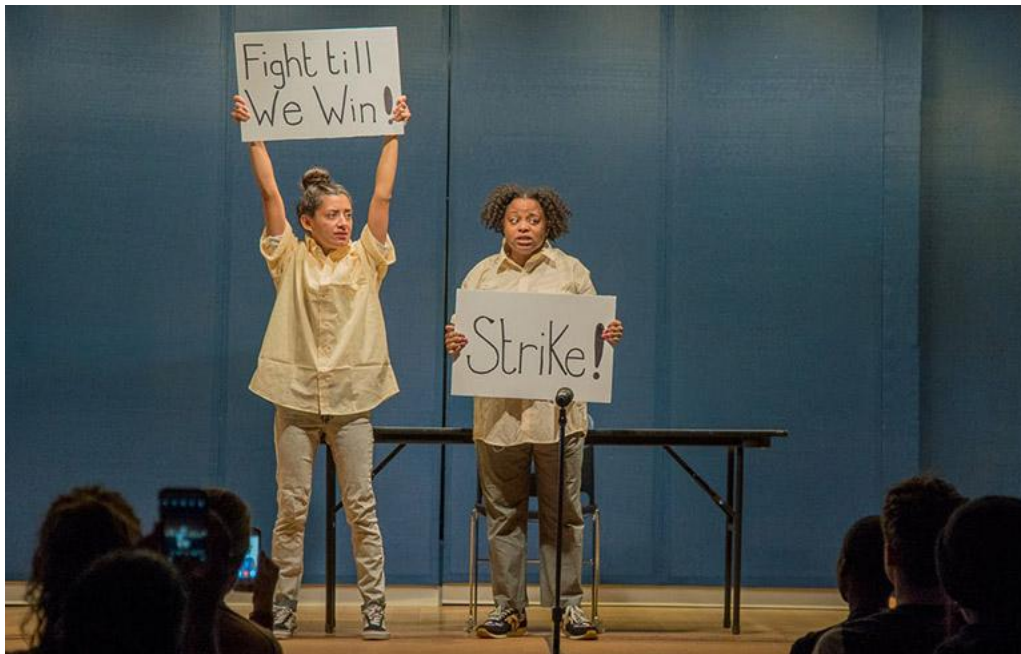
As a member of the UFT, you may vote for officers, executive board members and convention delegates.

The American Arbitration Association, which is administering the election, mailed out confidential ballots to members' homes on March 25. Please look for an envelope that says "Urgent — Official U.F.T. Ballot Enclosed."

Your ballot must reach the American Arbitration Association no later than 5 p.m. on Tuesday, April 16. Ballots will be counted on Wednesday, April 17. Do not sign your name on your ballot.

Please follow this [voting instructions link](#) for more details regarding election procedures as well as to read about the caucuses that are running candidates.

Future in focus: Exploring the world of unionized careers



Actors from the Working Theater use art to teach students about the value of unions and organized labor (photo by P. Kevin O'Leary.)

Hundreds of the students and educators from both academic and CTE high schools met on March 15 at UFT headquarters for the 3rd annual Future in Focus Symposium. With the help of the Central Labor Council, students learned about how unions improve the lives of workers and had the opportunity to meet with representatives from dozens of traditionally unionized industries. Students were also treated to a performance by the Working Theater, under the direction of Mark Pleasant, which explored the past, present and future of the labor movement.

The DOE is shutting down SESIS

After almost a decade of complaints, malfunctions and payments of more than \$73 million to UFT members to compensate them for work outside school hours, the Department of Education is finally pulling the plug on the \$130 million Special Education Student Information System (SE SIS) launched in 2011.

still use SEESIS to ensure special education compliance. We can, however, celebrate the eventual end of a dysfunctional platform that failed to meet the needs of both teachers and students.

Update your personal information

Did you get married, have a baby, add or drop an eligible dependent? To cover new dependents and update your personal information, you should do the following:

1. To notify the UFT Welfare Fund, use our online [Update Your Information \(Change of Status\) form](#) and file a Change of Status Form electronically within 30 days of the event. (A hard copy of the form is available from your chapter leader or by calling the Welfare Fund's forms hotline at 1-212-539-0539.)
2. Update your New York City health plan by contacting HR Connect at 1-718-935-4000.
3. To notify the DOE, use its Personal and Tax Data Change Form on the DOE website. Print the form and follow the instructions on it. Send one copy to the DOE and give one to your school secretary.
4. With family changes, review and, if appropriate, update your beneficiary forms with the Teachers' Retirement System or the Board of Education Retirement System and any private insurance you hold.

Daniel Dromm Scholarship

The UFT Pride Committee will award a \$1,000 scholarship to a high school senior in each of the five boroughs. The scholarship is named for City Councilman Daniel Dromm, the head of the Council's finance committee and chair of the Council's LGBTQ caucus. Applicants must be a high school senior and a committed LGBTQ student activist. Applicants must be attending college in fall 2019 and have a minimum of a 3.0 GPA. [View the scholarship application.](#)

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