



## NEWSLETTER

Dear Friend,

As the holidays approach, we, at Team High School, have much to be thankful for. We are thankful for the love of our friends and families, the dedication and hard work of our colleagues and the determination of our students. November is also School-Related Professionals Appreciation Month. We are deeply thankful for all the school secretaries, school counselors, social workers and therapists (to name just a few titles) who provide essential services to our students and schools.



We are also thankful for the courage of our unionized brothers and sisters around the country who have stood up for the dignity of work and have defended the sanctity of collective bargaining. It is clear to any observer that unions are on the march.

Workplace successes include the United Auto Workers (UAW) who engaged in a 40-day strike before ratifying a contract that creates a full-time employment pipeline for temporary workers. CUNY professors, who are members of the Professional Staff Congress, recently ratified a contract that increases overall pay by 10% and the starting salaries of adjunct professors by a whopping 71%. Last, we salute the fortitude of our colleagues in the Chicago Teachers Union who went on strike to secure staff levels and reduce class sizes to ensure that quality education takes place in their city.

While we are grateful for these victories, we also know that we must continue to fight, to organize and to work for a fairer society for working people. Nothing will be given, as our successes are only achieved through collective action. As the struggle for justice continues, we hope to see you on the front lines.

In solidarity,

Janelle T. Hinds, Vice President for Academic High Schools  
Sterling Roberson, Vice President for Career and Technical Education

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## Coming Home to Teach

Team High School is thrilled to highlight Jerry Sieunarine in this month's installment of Coming Home to Teach. Jerry graduated from Pelham Preparatory Academy in the Bronx in 2006 and, after numerous conversations with former teachers, he decided to return as a special education teacher in 2013. "I decided to pursue a career in teaching to support children from my community regardless of abilities, cultural backgrounds and identities," Jerry said.

Jerry looks back fondly on his time at Pelham Prep particularly the extracurricular activities that kept him wholly engaged with the school community. Jerry says the myriad clubs in which he was involved "helped me develop my collaboration, grit and goal-setting skills [needed] to become a leader in college and in my teaching career."

Jerry encourages his students "to think beyond high school, make their dreams tangible and ultimately contribute back to their community." For Jerry, serving as a special education teacher has intrinsic rewards, and he welcomes feedback from colleagues, students and parents.

Team High School thanks Jerry for all the work he does to bring joy, care and educational opportunities to his students at Pelham Preparatory Academy.

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



Jerry Sieunarine is proud to be a special education teacher at his alma mater, Pelham Preparatory Academy in the Bronx.

## Nominate Your Colleague or School Chapter for a Team High School Award

Our sixth annual Team High School Awards Ceremony will take place on Friday, April 24, 2020. Honor those who go above and beyond in serving students, schools, communities and the union and [nominate a colleague or your school's chapter](#) for a High School Award. The award categories include Excellence in Education, Outstanding Union Activist, Community Champion and the Team High School Award. [Read the award descriptions](#). For information regarding the awards, please contact [Angel Valentin](#).





Joining the 2019 award winners are (top, from left) UFT President Michael Mulgrew, Schools Chancellor Richard Carranza and UFT Vice President for Academic High Schools Janella Hinds at UFT headquarters in Manhattan.

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## We've Got That Covered: School Budgets

Chapter committees play a key role in communicating the needs and ideas of faculty and students before decisions are made on the allocation of school funds. [Article 8C](#) of our union contract, along with an [arbitrator's decision](#), gives the chapter leader along with the chapter consultation committee a right to review as well as to provide input into spending decisions.

For questions about your rights to review the school budget, see the [Know Your Rights](#) section of the UFT website. To develop your skills for reading a school budget, please consult the UFT's [budget tutorial](#).

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## Future in Focus

Hundreds of students and educators from both academic and CTE high schools attended the 4th annual Future in Focus symposium on Oct. 31 at UFT headquarters. With the help of our friends at the Central Labor Council, students learned about the power unions have in improving the lives of workers, and had the opportunity to meet with representatives from dozens of traditionally unionized industries. Students were also treated with a performance by the Working Theater, under the direction of Mark Plesent, which explored the past, present and future of the labor movement. This special day exposed students to the full spectrum of possibilities that exist after high school. [See photos from the day on the UFT website.](#)





High School students explore options for unionized careers at the fourth annual Future in Focus career fair at UFT headquarters in Manhattan on Oct. 31.

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## Help is a Phone Call Away

The [UFT Health and Cancer HelpLine](#) provides union members with counseling and information services. This helpline offers counseling to those experiencing mental health issues and serious medical issues. Counselors also help members obtain medical leaves and navigate the insurance system. Referrals are also offered for care-giving services; individual, married-couple or group therapy; and substance-abuse treatment. Most counseling is provided in-person or by telephone during business hours. It's best to call ahead to ensure that time will be set aside for you. Call the UFT Welfare Fund's main number at [212-539-0500](#) and ask to speak with a Health and Cancer HelpLine counselor. All conversations are strictly confidential.

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## Teacher Union Day

More than 1,700 UFT members and guests packed the Grand Ballroom at the New York Hilton Midtown in Manhattan on Oct. 20 to celebrate union activism past and present at the UFT's annual Teacher Union Day event. We're proud to recognize the high school chapter leaders who were recipients of Trachtenberg Awards. The Trachtenberg Awards commemorate the efforts of Ely Trachtenberg whose organizational work in 1959 proved instrumental in the formation of the UFT.





UFT Vice Presidents Janella Hinds (second from left) and Sterling Roberson (front right) pose for a selfie with high school Trachtenberg winners at this year's Teacher Union Day event.

## Bowling in Queens

Three hundred Queens high school members enjoyed an afternoon of bowling, fun and camaraderie on Nov. 1 at Whitestone Lanes. The event, which celebrated the hard work of our colleagues, was also a drive to raise funds for the UFT's Committee on Political Education (COPE). UFT members committed to contributing an additional \$13,000 a year for UFT political action. We were joined by State Sen. John Liu. A great time was had by all, proving the mantra that "a union that plays together stays together."



New York State Sen. John Liu, (center, with green bowling bowl), and members of East-West School of International Studies enjoy an afternoon at Whitestone Lanes.

## High School Citywide Meeting

Throughout the year, UFT members from academic and career and technical high schools convene to discuss issues of interest regarding our union, our profession, our schools and our students. Our conversations cover concerns of national, state and local importance. We met at the Museum of the City of New York on Oct. 23 to explore the exhibition, City of Workers, City of Struggle: How Labor Unions Changed New York. [Read more about the exhibit.](#)





UFT Vice Presidents Janella Hinds, (front center), and Sterling Roberson, (behind her), gather with high school members at the Museum of the City of New York.

## Law Internship Opportunity for High School Students

Teachers in high schools are asked to encourage students interested in law to apply for the [Thurgood Marshall Summer Law Internship Program](#), an intensive paid internship program which places New York City public high school students with legal employers for the summer and exposes them to the legal profession. Applicants must submit copies of their transcript, working papers, a resume and a recommendation letter from a teacher or school counselor. They must also supply a document detailing their availability for an interview at the City Bar (Monday to Friday from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., after school hours or during spring break.) Students must also write a 300-500 word essay on why they would like to participate in the program and describe how at least one of Justice Thurgood Marshall's accomplishments align with their goals. The application deadline is Jan. 3, 2020. For more information, see the [program flier](#). For full requirements and to submit an application, use the [online form](#).

YOUR DIVISION | YOUR UNION



United Federation of Teachers  
*A Union of Professionals*  
52 Broadway, New York, NY 10004