



United Federation
of Teachers A UNION OF PROFESSIONALS

Your Rights

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Team High School

Chapter Newsletter

February 2021

We are the constant.

In a world faced with trouble and uncertainty, we take comfort in knowing our work with the students of New York City continues to make a difference. We don't always see it, but we are a constant in the lives of our students who are struggling.

Whatever the future holds, we know there is nobody better to tackle this school year's many challenges than UFT members working together.

Whether it is meeting our students' emotional needs, resolving the "NX" grade fiasco, ensuring our schools are safe, making vaccinations more available or enforcing fair evaluations, our union is the constant.

In solidarity,

Janella and Sterling

Use your voice in your union: Join a policy committee

As the largest local union in the country, an important challenge is determining how we can all express our views in guiding union policy and strategy. The goal of each UFT committee is to develop and refine UFT policy to meet myriad challenges affecting our profession and working and learning conditions.

In addition to the UFT Delegate Assembly (which passes resolutions monthly) and the UFT Executive Board (which meets bi-weekly), any member of the high school division is welcome to join one of our high school policy committees. For questions or to sign up for a meeting, please contact teamhighschool@uft.org. The committee descriptions are listed below:

UFT Team High School Committees 2020-21

High School Environment Committee:

This committee guides UFT policy and advocacy to meet the many challenges created by the pandemic, remote education and the eventual return to school. The goal is to produce concrete plans to guide and form union policy as it relates in particular to: teacher evaluation, remote teaching and learning and high school graduation requirements. Our next meeting will be on Thursday, March 4, from 3 to 4 p.m. To sign up, please contact us at teamhighschool@uft.org.

High School Safety and Scanning Committee:

This committee works with the UFT Safety Division to discuss the long-standing issue of safety in New York City high schools. Important topics include creating and guiding UFT policy to make high schools safe for all and exploring how scanning and NYC high school student entry should be reimaged.

Save the date: March 9 academic high school meeting

Please save the date for our next **remote academic high school meeting** on Tuesday, March 9, at 4:30 p.m. This citywide meeting is an excellent opportunity to discuss common challenges and issues academic high schools are facing this extraordinary year. You will receive an email invitation closer to the date.

Remaining meetings: April 20, May 18 and June 8.

Save the date: March 10 CTE high school meeting

Please save the date for our next **remote CTE meeting** on Wednesday, March 10, at 4:30 p.m. This citywide meeting is an excellent opportunity to discuss common challenges and issues CTE high schools are facing this extraordinary year. You will receive an email invitation closer to the date.

Remaining meetings: April 21, May 18 and June 9.

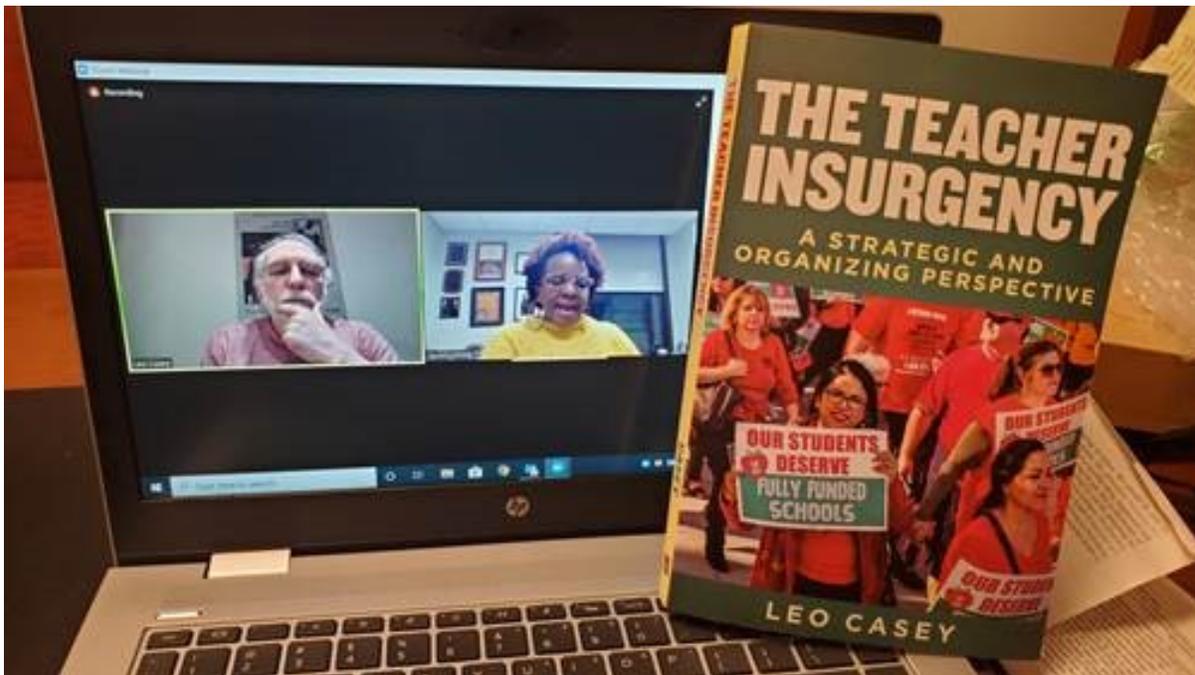
Roberson named to national council on CTE

The Computing Technology Industry Association (CompTIA) has formed the National Career and Technical Education Advisory Council to lead a national dialogue

focused on accelerating career pathways in technology. UFT Vice President Sterling Roberson has been named, along with two other New Yorkers, to represent New York State. “We strongly believe that CTE will play a critical role in our recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic, which has devastated household finances and changed educational plans for many families,” said Angel L. Piñeiro Jr., vice president, strategic academic relationships, at CompTIA. More than 30 individuals representing 22 states have already joined the CompTIA CTE Advisory Council. [Read more about the new council’s mission.](#)

The Teacher Insurgency

UFT high school members participated in a Jan. 28 virtual discussion of the *Teacher Insurgency* by Leo Casey to explore strategies to increase the UFT’s collective power and solve important challenges facing high schools. The Team High School Huddle Committee continued the conversation at their Feb. 9 meeting.

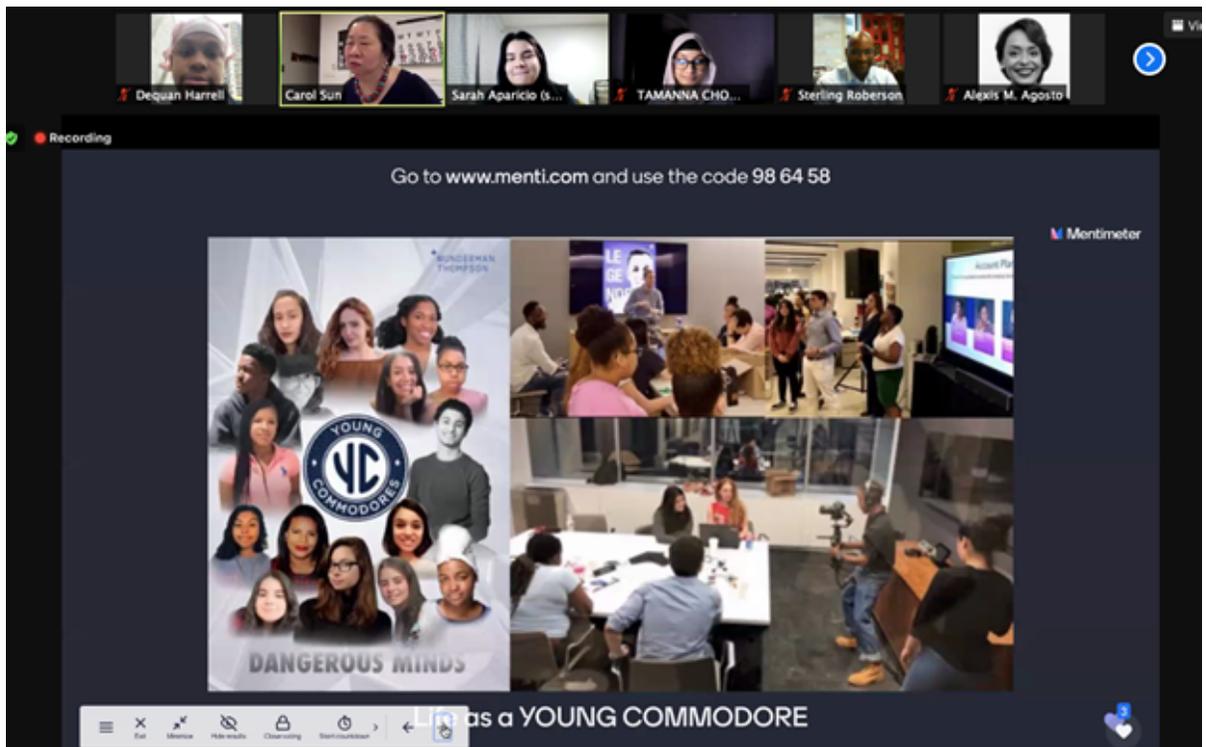


Leo Casey, a former UFT vice president for academic high schools and the director of the Albert Shanker Institute, shares strategies for maximizing collective power with UFT Vice President for Academic High School Janella Hinds and UFT members during a Jan. 28 book discussion.

Getting students ready for a communications workforce

Manhattan Early College School for Advertising students participated in a virtual CTE Family Night for the MECA school community on Jan. 21.

MECA students who participated in the Young Commodores internship program at Wunderman Thompson, a New York-based global marketing communications agency, shared their experiences working alongside college students to produce their own videos across multiple media platforms.



From left, Carol Sun, work-based learning coordinator and CTE Teacher (second) and Sterling Roberson, UFT vice president of career and technical education and guest speaker (fifth) join a CTE Family Night for the MECA school community on Jan. 21.

You never walk alone! You belong to these labor groups!

Don't forget that in addition to being a member of the UFT, the largest local union the country, you are also a member of New York State United Teachers (NYSUT), the American Federation of Teachers (AFT), and the American Federation of Labor - Congress of Industrial Organizations (AFL-CIO) Please contact the UFT at teamhighschool@uft.org or [212-598-9217](tel:212-598-9217) to discuss the benefits of joining these powerful groups and ways to get involved.



A group of UFT members and Janella Hinds, a UFT vice president and secretary-treasurer of the NYC Central Labor Council, showed solidarity by joining produce workers on strike at Hunts Point, Bronx, in January. The workers successfully negotiated a contract after putting pressure on management through various tactics including a picket. Above, Ms. Hinds is interviewed by a local television news program.

Submit your comments about evaluation and state exams

Use this NYSUT form to submit comments to the New York State Education Department regarding evaluation and the use of state tests.

[Submit your comments »](#)

Free student debt relief webinars

Are you concerned about paying your student loans? The Student Debt Relief Program, an exclusive member benefit brought to you by the UFT, is here to help.

[Sign up for a free webinar »](#)

Enter a video or music contest with your students to teach them about human rights

The UFT is proud to partner with [Robert F. Kennedy Human Rights](#), a social justice advocacy group that uses the experiences of courageous human rights defenders from around the world to educate young people about human rights and urge them to act. Please encourage your students to enter the Speak Truth to Power student video and music contests. The contest deadline is April 19.

[Read more about the contests and how to participate »](#)

You can also contact teamhighschool@uft.org for contest information; engaging lessons and student-ready material on human rights; and opportunities to meet notable international human rights advocates.



\$5,000 student scholarships: Deadline is Feb. 26

Each year, the UFT proudly awards \$1 million in undergraduate and graduate scholarships to academically excellent and financially eligible students from New York City public schools. **The deadline has been extended to Friday, Feb. 26.**

[Read more about the scholarship »](#)

Eligible students may submit their completed applications and required documentation to Simone.Lewis@uftwf.org or mail them to the address below.

UFT Albert Shanker Scholarship Fund
52 Broadway
New York, NY 10004

Dial-a-Teacher is here for your students!

UFT's free homework help hotline, [Dial-A-Teacher](#), is open! K-12 students and their parents or caregivers are invited to call [212-777-3380](tel:212-777-3380) or visit the Dial-A-Teacher website Mondays through Thursdays between 4 and 7 p.m. to get free homework help from a licensed teacher.

Many of the teachers are bilingual, so Dial-A-Teacher can assist students and families in ten languages, including Armenian, Bengali, Chinese, English, French, Haitian-Creole, Korean, Russian, Spanish and Tagalog.

Did you know?

The late Abel Meeropol, a UFT member and a long-time teacher at DeWitt Clinton HS in the Bronx, wrote the lyrics to Billie Holiday's famed song "Strange Fruit."



Janella T. Hinds

Vice President for Academic High Schools

Sterling Roberson

Vice President for Career and Technical Education

212-598-9217 | teamhighschool@uft.org

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