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# UFT ParaScope Paraprofessionals

## CHAPTER NEWSLETTER

Dear Friend,

I hope the new semester and the new decade are going well for you!

As we look ahead at the work our chapter will be doing this semester, I want to remind you how important and appreciated you are. Our work as paraprofessionals is absolutely vital for New York City schoolchildren, and our union values us accordingly. That's why the UFT is constantly fighting to expand our rights and benefits.



One of the most powerful ways the union has strengthened our voices as educators is the process laid out in the 2018 DOE-UFT contract to address operational issues in schools. If you face a workplace issue such as lack of instructional supplies or inadequate space, you should bring the issue to your school's chapter leader, paraprofessional representative or both. When the chapter leader addresses it with the principal, the principal has five days to resolve the issue before it gets escalated. [Learn more about the process on the UFT website »](#)

You'll learn more about your rights and responsibilities — and about some exciting campaigns and events on the schedule this semester — in the items below.

Thank you for your continued hard work and dedication. Together, we are strong.

Sincerely,

Shelvy Young-Abrams  
Paraprofessionals Chapter Leader

## Come to ParaFest on March 14

Don't miss our 39th annual Paraprofessionals Festival and Awards Luncheon!

- Date: Saturday, March 14, 2020
- Time: 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. (Breakfast starts at 7:30 a.m.)
- Location: New York Hilton at 1336 Sixth Ave. [Directions »](#)

[Register now »](#)

This year's theme is "All Aboard: Navigating the Needs of Culturally Diverse Learners." There will be breakfast, workshops, a health and wellness festival, a luncheon and awards. The cost to attend is \$40 for paraprofessionals seeking CTLE hours and \$25 for paraprofessionals who do not require CTLE hours.



At last year's ParaFest, Guylande Narcisse, a para at the Amnesty International School for Human Rights in Brooklyn, wins a prize on the midway.

Please [download and share the flier](#).

## Census 2020!

New York lost — and continues to lose — hundreds of millions of dollars for schools and other vital services because the city and state were undercounted in the 2010 Census. With the 2020 Census, we have the chance to change that and make New York count!

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## Paraprofessionals' rights and responsibilities

The *New York Teacher* recently ran a Know Your Rights column about our rights and responsibilities as paraprofessionals.

To learn the answers to your questions about your role in the classroom and lunchroom, and the rules about sick days and other absences, [read the column on the UFT website »](#)

## Know your rights: Injury on the job

Paraprofessionals, nurses, occupational and physical therapists, administrative titles and Substance Abuse Prevention and Intervention Specialists (SAPIS), including subs, who have been injured or made sick on the job should file for Workers' Compensation, a form of insurance — paid for in advance by your employer — that entitles you to full medical coverage and part of your salary for job-related injuries and illnesses.

To learn about Workers' Compensation or to download the forms to file for it, [visit the UFT website »](#)

## A note on punctuality

In light of some calls we've received recently, I want to remind you to make every possible effort to be in the classroom at the beginning of the school day. Otherwise, you'll be marked as tardy.

## The UFT celebrates school-related professionals

Last semester, the UFT held five celebrations — one in each borough — to celebrate and recognize school-related professionals, including paraprofessionals.

Our chapter was well represented at these fabulous events.

Your union appreciates you!



Paras at the SRP celebration in the Bronx.

## Career development opportunities at CUNY

The City University of New York offers a program called LEAP to Teacher in all boroughs. LEAP to Teacher provides a set of free, specialized support services for paraprofessionals employed by the DOE who are pursuing higher education and advancing their career in any field of study. Learn more about LEAP to Teacher [on the UFT website](#).

CUNY also offers a free program on Staten Island call Mathematics for Future Teachers that runs from Feb. 15 to April 4. [See the flier](#).

## Honor roll

Congratulations to our chapter's newest graduates!

*(To be listed on the honor roll, call 212-598-9295 or send a fax to 212-785-4639 with your name, the school where you work, the type of degree you received — for example, associate of arts, associate of science, or bachelor's degree — and the college you attended.)*

|                 |      |     |  |
|-----------------|------|-----|--|
| Radwa Ahmed     | R068 | MA  | College of Staten Island               |
| Teneka Edwards  | K009 | BA  | Brooklyn College                       |
| Alma Escobar    | Q121 | AAS | Borough of Manhattan Community College |
| Jenelle Hartley | Q882 | MSW | Fordham University                     |

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|              |      |    |                          |
|--------------|------|----|--------------------------|
| Sonya Taylor | Q009 | BA | City College of New York |
|--------------|------|----|--------------------------|

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United Federation of Teachers  
*A Union of Professionals*  
 52 Broadway, New York, NY 10004  
 (212) 777-7500 • UFT.org

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