



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
March 27, 2012

Contact: Nat T. Bender
908-377-0393 (mobile)
nbender@aftnj.org

Bergen adjunct professors vote union

Join peers at nine other New Jersey community colleges to work for better conditions

EDISON..."Bergen Community College adjuncts have now joined with the many other New Jersey colleges which have had unions for years," said Sandy Shevack, an adjunct Sociology Professor active in forming a new American Federation of Teachers union. "Together we can promote and protect our professional contributions to education."

Shevack is one of 678 adjunct professors who will now bargain with the college after a majority of the part-time faculty members agreed to unionize. The next step for the new group is to bargain a contract with Bergen Community College, the state's largest community college, with 31,000 students.

"The union will give adjuncts at Bergen a much-needed voice on compensation and working conditions, which will allow us to better serve the students of Bergen Community College," said Ted Arin, a chemistry adjunct in the Physical Sciences Department. Adjuncts at other unionized community colleges have negotiated benefits such as progressively better pay with experience, sick days, paid professional development courses and timely notifications of reappointments since adjuncts' classes are often cancelled based on enrollment.

The Bergen adjuncts will form a chapter of the United Adjunct Faculty of New Jersey (UAFNJ) local, which already represents more than 3,100 adjuncts at Camden, Essex, Hudson, Mercer, Middlesex, Morris, Passaic, Sussex, and Union community colleges. With the addition of the Bergen adjuncts, UAFNJ now represents adjunct faculty members at 10 county colleges.

Elaine Bobrove is an adjunct at Camden County College and President of UAFNJ. "I am proud to welcome the newly unionized Bergen Community College adjuncts to our local," said Bobrove. "Since joining together, our members have made many negotiating advances in the areas of pay (including pay for late cancellation of classes and mandatory meetings), academic rank, grievance process with binding arbitration and more. We all look forward to working together with the adjuncts from Bergen."

The UAFNJ is a local of the American Federation of Teachers New Jersey, the largest higher education union in the state, representing approximately 20,000 full and part-time faculty, all levels of administrative, professional and supervisory staff, graduate workers, and postdoctoral researchers. Rutgers faculty and staff and all four state colleges and five state universities are AFT locals. With the addition of the Bergen adjuncts, AFTNJ now represents faculty and staff at 12 county colleges.

[END]