



AFT New Jersey, AFL-CIO

629 Amboy Avenue, 3rd Floor Edison, New Jersey 08837

Phone: (732) 661-9393 Fax: (732) 661-1776

Website: www.aftnj.org

AFTNJ Legislative Conference, April 19-20, 2013. The Heldrich.

Friday April 19th

3:00 – 7:00 pm **Registration (Lobby)**

3:00 – 5:00 pm **Breakout Sessions**

Dickson Room – Performance-Based Funding of Higher Education. Performance-based funding is all the rage these days. State legislators throughout the country are basing, or planning to base, future higher education allocations on variables such as graduation rates and job placements. What metrics are fair to consider? What alternatives to such legislation should we propose?

Moderator: Frank Pavese, WPUNJ Executive Board.

- Sue Tardi, AFTNJ Exec. VP, Higher Ed. Division. WPUNJ.
- Tim Haresign, AFTNJ VP, Higher Ed. Division. President, Council of New Jersey State College Locals. Stockton.
- Dan O'Connor, President, NJ State AAUP. Rutgers.
- Bill Calathes, President, NJCU AFT.

Meyer Room – A call for adjunct equity. What is going on with the Affordable Care Act and what are its implications for contingent faculty? What constitutes full-time status? How should reasonable employers conduct themselves and what should we be demanding?

Moderator: Elaine Bobrove, President, United Adjunct Faculty of New Jersey-Camden CC.

Speaker: John Abraham, AFT National Staff.

5:15 – 7:30 pm **Dinner in Vanderbilt Room**

“Building Solidarity”

- **Introduction:** Donna M. Chiera, AFTNJ President.
- **Welcome:** U.S. Cong. Frank Pallone.
- **Elections Matter:** State Senate President Steve Sweeney.
- Jeff Trifari, Chair, AFTNJ Committee On Political Education (COPE).
- Sen. Barbara Buono.
- Q&A with Sen. Buono.



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Saturday April 20th

7:30 am **Registration in Vanderbilt Foyer**

7:45 – 8:30 am **Breakfast Buffet**

8:30 – 9:45 am

Minimum Wage Panel Discussion. If minimum wage had been tied to the cost of living index in 1968 it would currently be \$10.52. A referendum to raise the minimum wage to \$8.25 per hour and tie it to increases in the Consumer Price Index is up for voter approval in November's General Election. Hear from experts about how this will benefit the economy as a whole and from those for whom the increase will be critical in daily living.

Moderator: Lucye Millerand, AFTNJ Secretary, URA President.

- Karen White, Time to Care Coalition, URA Social Justice Chair.
- Marien Casillas Pabellon, Exec. Dir., New Labor.

9:45–10:00 Coffee Break

10:00 – 11:15 **Breakout Sessions**

Kilmer Room – Realizing the DREAM Act. AFTNJ leaders and locals are speaking out in support of state legislation to allow in-state tuition at state colleges and universities for undocumented foreign-born youth who graduate from New Jersey high schools. The proposals introduced in Trenton mirror some elements of the DREAM (Development, Relief, and Education for Alien Minors) Act proposed at the Federal level. Passage of this important provision will also help stop the out-migration of New Jersey high school graduates.

Moderator: Lucye Millerand, AFTNJ Secretary, URA President.

- Marisol Conde-Hernandez, NJ DREAM Act Coalition.
- Giancarlo Tello, NJ United Students.

Dickson Room – How to Lobby Effectively. Get the “insider” perspective from former New Jersey Assembly Speaker and Senator Joe Doria, now Education Professor.

Moderator: Sarah Ann Harnick, AFTNJ COPE, NJCU.

- Joe Doria, St. Peters.
- Pete Guzzo, AFTNJ Legislative Affairs Consultant.



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10:00 – 11:15 **Breakout Sessions** (continued)

Ellis Room – What Should Multiple Measures Look Like?

Creating a teacher development and evaluation system based on student output sounds much easier in theory than in practice. Non-educators focus on standardized test scores because it is a simple fix. Educators know and understand test scores may be a simple solution to a complex problem but they are not on their own a true indicator of student achievement. This workshop will define multiple measures. The session will identify what other districts are using to successfully calculate student achievement. There will also be a discussion on how these measures can be applied to non-testing subjects and the role the union should have in developing these systems.

Moderator: Patricia Paradiso, Perth Amboy Federation.

Speaker: Jason Edwards, AFT National Education Issues Department.

Meyer Room - A Vision for Higher Education. In an era of declining state funding for our institutions of higher education, how do we promote accessible, affordable and quality education? As elements of corporate education reform threaten tenure and academic freedom, what is our vision for developing a student-centered system?

Moderator: Sue Tardi, WPUNJ.

- Manuel Pontes, Vice President Rowan AFT.
- Dan O'Connor, President, NJ State AAUP. Rutgers.
- Adrienne Eaton, President, Rutgers AAUP-AFT.
- Elaine Bobrove, President, United Adjunct Faculty of New Jersey. Camden CC.

Archibald Room – Health Insurance Options. What should the SHBP Design Committee members do? We probably face double digit health insurance premium increases and a state government focused on cost shifting on to employees. Learn from a plan design committee member about what options we may have individually and collectively.

Moderator: Nat Bender, AFTNJ Staff.

Speaker: Jeff Keefe, Rutgers AAUP-AFT Executive Board.

11:15-11:30 Break

11:30 – 12:45 **Breakout Sessions**

Kilmer Room – Pathway to Victory. Can Chris Christie be beaten in November? Research suggest yes, but only with a strong coordinated campaign. Local leaders need to focus on the issues that members care about—quality education, health insurance, jobs and benefits—in order to overcome voter cynicism, hold local districts and turn the statewide tide.

Moderator: Kay Schechter, URA COPE chair.

Speaker: Tom Lindenfeld, LSG Strategies.



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11:30 – 12:45 Breakout Sessions (continued)

Dickson Room – Health and Safety. Find out how to help members and community move towards recovery from Superstorm Sandy. Discuss how to plan for campus and community natural or man-made disasters or bargain for an equal voice in planning. Learn about the many opportunities for health and safety training with AFT for your local.

Moderator: Wayne Castello, AFTNJ PreK-12 VP, Perth Amboy Federation.

Speaker: Amy Bahruth, AFT National Health and Safety Staff.

Archibald Room – Raising the Bar on Teacher Prep.

While national standards, assessment and evaluation dominate the education reform headlines States are now beginning to focus on teacher prep programs in our colleges and universities. New Jersey legislators and education reformers are also beginning to look at how we prepare teachers. AFT national President Randi Weingarten recently advocated "Raising the Bar in Teacher Prep." This workshop will focus on the specifics of the report as a basis for discussion between PK-12 and teacher prep educators. What skills do the next generation of teachers need to help our student succeed in this age of information.

Moderator: Cheryl Skeete, AFTNJ Exec. VP, PreK to 12 Division. NTU.

Speaker: Jason Edwards, AFT National Education Issues Department Staff.

Ellis Room - Implementation of Core Standards.

National CORE standards should be the center of all district professional development programs in all subject areas not just math and language arts. Districts, schools, administration, teachers and students will be evaluated on assessments based on these standards. Is your district preparing the staff and students for this transition from New Jersey State Standards to the Common CORE? Is there a role for teacher prep programs in the transition? How can the union partner with districts in ensuring our districts, schools, staff and students are ready for the next accountability phase in education?

Moderator: Patricia Paradiso, Perth Amboy Federation.

Speaker: Lisa Dickenson, AFT National Education Issues Department Staff.

12:45 – 2:30 Buffet Lunch in Johnson Room

- **Welcome and Introductions:** Donna M. Chiera, AFTNJ President.
- **Local voter registration awards:** Joseph Amabile, AFTNJ Treasurer, NTU.
- **Friend of Education Award** to Sen. Nellie Pou.
- **Friend of Education Award** to Asm. Patrick Diegnan.
- **Honorary AFT Membership:** Sen. Linda Greenstein.
- Cong. Rush Holt.
- Charlie Wowkanech, President NJ State AFL-CIO.
- Randi Weingarten, AFT President.