

COUNCIL of NEW JERSEY STATE COLLEGE LOCALS AFT/AFL-CIO



1435 Morris Avenue
Union, NJ 07083
908-964-8476
FAX 908-688-9330
www.cnjscl.org

Tim Haresign
President



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On Monday, April 10 our brothers and sisters at Rutgers initiated the largest public sector strike in NJ history. Three Unions, representing graduate students, adjunct faculty, lecturers, librarians and full-time faculty, are fighting for fair wages for everyone and job security for graduate students, lecturers, and adjunct faculty. It is inspiring to see all of these groups stand together with student support to push for a fair contract. This fight has direct relevance to our negotiations. They won't end this strike until the demand of all three groups are satisfied. It is a remarkable and powerful instance of solidarity in action.

I encourage everyone who is able to try to get out and spend a couple of hours on a picket line in support of our Union brothers and sisters. A number of our members have already joined picket lines at New Brunswick, Newark, and Camden Campuses on Monday and Tuesday. Our presence has been greatly appreciated by the Rutgers Union leadership and members.

I know that this is a difficult time of the semester, and that for some people their schedule precludes them from participating. But if you can please try to make your way to the location closest to you and add your presence. The Council will reimburse mileage, tolls, and parking for those attending pickets, rallies, or other strike related events. I know that people on the picket line are really encouraged by the solidarity shown by sister Unions. If you go, let the Rutgers members know that you are there supporting them from a sister Local, they will really appreciate it and you will be welcomed warmly.

If you are going please check the news right before you leave to make sure the strike hasn't been settled. Right now there is not a good sense of how long this will last - it could be over tomorrow or it could last through the week and beyond. Many of the strikers are wearing a tee shirt emblazoned with the slogan: An Injury to One is an Injury to All".

Let's help them make that message resonate across the State.

In Solidarity,

Tim Haresign, President