

SCCC Professional Support Staff Federation  
AFT Local 6375  
Newsletter ~ March 31, 2009



Happy Spring!

Take a walk on our beautiful SCCC campus! Fresh air is still free, I think, please don't tell the governor, he might try to change that... :-)

MEETING APRIL 2

6:00 PM

HOLIDAY INN EXPRESS

DON'T MISS IT!

.....UNLESS YOU THINK

THAT YOU ARE

...OVER-PAID...

...OVER-APPRECIATED...

ETC, ETC, ETC,...

Message From The President

A THANK YOU!

Dear Members;

On behalf of AFT Local # 6375, we can't say thank you enough to our AFT representative Bob Jensen. Bob has been leading the way for us 'newbies' for nearly a year. He has spent countless hours, days, and weeks away from his family to help us reach a fair contract. I am also happy to report we have been told that the National American Federation of Teachers office in Washington DC will be directly involved with seeing us reach an agreement. We had Angela Callahan, Communications Specialist in the Organizing Department, come in to meet with us regarding our media campaign and Jewell Gould, Director of Research and Information Services joined us in a negotiation session to help us develop financial strategies. For our media campaign we will have the best that can be provided and financial research is being done to strengthen our cause for fair salary adjustments.

Yours In Solidarity,

Lynne Cottelli

A Healthy Institution

The center of the debate continues to be the subject of health insurance contributions. We say NO. There are several factors at hand. First, if we agree to health insurance contributions based on salary percentage, we will be the first in the state to do so. We will be the start of a ripple that will affect peers throughout the state. We do not want to be last in pay and first in payment. Let the pattern be set by other community college populations, then ask us. We are seen as weak and the statewide perception is that we are the group to force into compliance. We must and will stand strong against this. If the need is so strong why has no one to date made any contributions to their healthcare here at the College? We have been told that non-union personnel will also contribute, but none have yet. Also, since Governor Corzine changed the law, it is now possible for our unit to become the only community college unit in the state that contributes a percentage of our salaries to health insurance. Administrative staff can be exempted from health insurance contributions at the discretion of the College, or should we say at their own discretion.

Bridging the Gap

We see the College as the bridge we provide to students transitioning between stages in their lives. The faculty facilitates the pathway for the travelers to cross. The administration provides the upper stability to keep the pathway steady. What is the role of the support staff? We are the unseen foundation that supports the entire process. We are a network that intertwines to keep the bridge safe. We are a dedicated, intelligent and strong workforce that should be respected and compensated as such.

Just 'Decerts'

Time is ticking by and yes, we anticipate the College to support another decertification effort if given the chance. Apparently we are a nuisance to be dealt with and there is some glorification to be gained by breaking our unit. The last decertification attempt has dropped us right in the middle of toughening economic times just as we bring financial compensation to the table. We must remember that this process started over two years ago and this recession will not last forever. Economists expect recovery to start by the end of this year. We have proven more than once that we want to be organized.



