



Union News

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CSU-AAUP Summit on Inequality and the Crisis of Public Higher Education Fills the House

Inequality was on the top of many agendas Feb. 10, 2016, as CSU-AAUP held their [Summit on Inequality and the Crisis of Public Higher Education](#) in CCSU's Constitution Room in Memorial Hall. Standing-room-only crowds gathered to listen to expert panelists, legislators, community leaders and advocates launch important conversations on the of direction public higher education. Keynote speaker Bill Fletcher, Jr. inspired the crowd with his call to action against endemic inequality that plagues higher education today. Representative students from the four CSUs shared their stories of coming to CSU, their struggles to afford college or to balance school, work and family. Summit panelist Philip Trostel from the University of Maine shared his research on how investment in public higher education pays off in the long run. [Click here to see Dr. Trostel's PowerPoint.](#)



Bill Fletcher, Jr. delivers the keynote address.

[Click here to see videos of Summit panelists and presenters.](#)



A student panel shared why quality higher education matters to them.

CSU-AAUP Holds Legislative Breakfast and Lobby Day

Facing dire budget forecasts, [threats of furlough days and calls for opening up the SEBAC agreement](#), CSU-AAUP members and CSU students gathered for a Legislative Breakfast and Lobby Day March 8, 2016, at the Capitol to build relationships and garner support for quality public higher education. CSU-AAUP President Elena Tapia welcomed guests and speakers, and thanked CSU faculty who had participated in legislative task forces on Outcomes Based Financing, Open Source Textbooks, SARA, and others. BOR President Mark Ojikian gave opening remarks. Rep. Matt Lesser and Rep. Robyn Porter pledged to support quality public higher education for Connecticut. Nearly every CSU-AAUP member who came to Lobby Day attended a pre-arranged meeting with his/her legislators and/or staff. These included meetings with Sen. Beth Bye, chair of the Appropriations Committee, and Sen. Kevin Witkos, ranking member of the Higher Education Committee. [To see photos from Lobby Day, please click here.](#)



Rep. Robyn Porter, of New Haven, speaks to CSU professors at the Legislative Breakfast

DUE Justice Coalition to Hold Rally, Rate Legislators

Join CSU-AAUP, other SEBAC unions, and community organizations that make up the DUE Justice coalition on [April 4, 2016](#), as we hold politicians accountable and rate their commitment to the people of Connecticut on these five critical issues:

- **Good Jobs and Fair Wages**
- **Universal Access to Quality Public Education, Preschool to Graduate School**
- **A Vibrant and Fairly Funded Public Sector**
- **Racial, Gender, and Ethnic Justice**
- **Democracy in Our State and in Our Work Places**

[Click here to RSVP.](#) [Click here for more information about the April 4 DUE Justice event.](#)

Governor, Legislature Call to Reopen SEBAC Agreement

Letters exchanged between the Department of Labor and SEBAC Chief Negotiator Dan Livingston hit the press recently amid calls by [Governor Malloy and the legislature](#) to bring unions back to the table and reopen the 2011 SEBAC Agreement that laid out retirement and health care benefits for state employees.

[Click here to see those letters and a statement from SEBAC leaders.](#)

Save the Date!

The **Second Annual Conference on Shared Governance** is being held April 8 at Housatonic Community College in Bridgeport from 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Organized by the Faculty Advisory Committee to the Board of Regents for Higher Education, Dr. Thomas Bailey of Columbia University will be the event's keynote speaker. [To register, please click here.](#)

The **Spring Dinner and Meeting of the Connecticut State Conference of the AAUP** will be the evening of May 12 at the Yale Graduate Club in New Haven. Registration details will be coming soon.

AAUP 2016 Summer Institute Coming to Portland

Portland State University will host the **2016 AAUP Summer Institute** July 21-24. CSU-AAUP members can join more than 200 higher education professionals from around the country for four days of interactive workshops and programs aimed at providing needed tools to create positive change on campus. Stay tuned for registration information and get ready to build our collective faculty voice! For photos from last year's Summer Institute, see the [AAUP's Flickr page.](#)

Make Your Voice Heard!

While attending a rally or march is a great way to show solidarity, there are some great things you can do on your own to make the faculty voice heard loud and clear.

- [Find your legislator and write a letter](#) telling why public higher education should be supported.
- Visit [CT-HigherEdMatters.org](#) and open the Take Action page for links to key legislative and policy leaders in our state. Let them know what the reality is for CSU students and faculty—who make up the heart and soul of the university system.