



Union News

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Message From CSU-AAUP President Elena Tapia:

My message for March is brief. Your AAUP has been hard at work since the summer of August 2017 planning engaging activities to call attention to the State Legislature to invest in public higher education. We believe that the thriving communities created by well-funded colleges and universities are one of the solutions to the problems our state faces. Read here and learn about what’s going on and to see where you and your students can become involved.

In solidarity,
Elena

CSU-AAUP Chapters #ThriveTogether:

Building on CSU-AAUP’s #ThriveTogether campaign launched earlier this year, all four CSU-AAUP chapters held their own versions of a Thrive In where faculty, students, and staff came together to talk about what they needed in public higher education to #ThriveTogether.

WCSU-AAUP held a Thrive In in four different locations across their two campuses over two days. Faculty saw an enthusiastic response from students and WCSU-AAUP members alike, as folks in the university community joined in to create their own messages about what they needed to thrive. According to CSU-AAUP Vice President Patty O’Neill, much of what students reported needing centered around debt-free higher education and financial assistance.



Above, ECSU-AAUP council member Sarah Baires and an ECSU student talk at the ECSU-AAUP Thrive In about what they need to #ThriveTogether .

SCSU-AAUP and ECSU-AAUP also held similar Thrive In events

Check out CSU-AAUP’s Flickr page for more photos from all four campus Thrive In events!

where dozens of students, faculty, and staff posed with signs detailing what they each needed to thrive. CCSU-AAUP’s Thrive In, held earlier in the semester, involved state legislators who met with faculty and students to discuss the need for greater investment in public higher education as a means to #ThriveTogether.

The end of March saw special events including a forum by CCSU-AAUP called [Save Our Schools, Defend Our Communities](#). This event helped start conversations on the dangers of austerity and ways for faculty and students to push back. Also in March, SCSU-AAUP held a special showing of the documentary *The United States of ALEC* by Bill Moyers. After the film, past CSU-AAUP President and Professor Emeritus Dave Walsh led a discussion on inroads American Legislative Exchange Council (ALEC) has made in Connecticut. **Stay tuned for more Thrive In events happening at your campus!**

Save The Date For Higher Ed Lobby Day:

CSU-AAUP is joining forces at the Capitol again with the 4Cs and UConn-AAUP on **Wednesday, April 11, 2018, for the Second Annual Public Higher Education Lobby Day**. The legislature will be in session on that day and we expect a lot of lawmakers to be in the building. Please mark your calendars and bring your students along as well.

Public Higher Education Lobby Day will be held in the second floor atrium of the [Legislative Office Building](#) from 9 a.m. to noon. We will hear opening remarks from union leaders and lawmakers before heading out to meet with legislators and their aides. A light breakfast will be served. Stay tuned for more details in the coming days.

To R.S.V.P., please click [here](#) or email CSU-AAUP Communications Associate [Liz Newberg](#) at newberge@ccsu.edu.

#ThriveTogether

Sign On To Support Public Higher Education in CT:

Because thriving communities require strong economic and political commitment to public higher education, CSU-AAUP has joined forces with UConn-AAUP and the 4Cs to launch an online petition calling on our elected officials to invest in public higher education.

[Click here to read and sign our coalition’s petition calling for a renewed commitment to and increased investment in public higher education.](#)

Communities that invest in their public higher education systems are communities that #ThriveTogether.

Mandatory Reporter Policy Casts A Chill:

The Board of Regents’ [“Policy Regarding Reporting Suspected Abuse or Neglect of a Child.”](#) adopted by the BOR January 17, 2014, is causing a disruption to student learning and impinging on academic freedom, according to some SCSU-AAUP members in the Marriage and Family Therapy program. The BOR policy as it stands is more stringent than statutes require it to be.

The policy, though well intentioned, is causing students anxiety, stifling learning, and is often re-traumatizing to the adult students upon whom this policy is being forced. [SCSU-AAUP members have reported](#) that faculty hesitate to bring up relevant subjects for fear the student is placed in a “reportable position.” Students risk “shutting down” in the educational setting to protect their privacy or confidentiality about a matter they have no desire to relive. SCSU-AAUP members report that teaching and learning are being compromised in the shadow of this policy and students’ trust in faculty is being undermined.

If you are aware of similar conflicts around the mandatory reporter policy, please let CSU-AAUP know. Email or call your chapter president, chapter staff member, or CSU-AAUP Communications Associate [Liz Newberg](#). CSU-AAUP wants to hear about your experiences with this policy so we can continue to protect your academic freedom and your students’ success in learning.

CSU-AAUP Members Weigh In On Supporting Undocumented

Because they know every student matters, ECSU-AAUP members Ricardo Pérez and Patrick Vitale joined a large group of educators at Southern Connecticut State University for the fourth annual Connecticut Students for a Dream (C4D) Educators Conference to learn how best to support undocumented students in and out of the classroom.

Considering that just this month, the state legislature’s Higher Education Committee passed [HB5031](#), a bill that would allow undocumented students access to institutional financial aid, now is the perfect time to learn more on supporting undocumented students.

[Click here](#) to read a full report of what Professors Pérez and Vitale learned at the Educators Conference.

Several SCSU-AAUP members also attended the conference, including Professors Jazmin Sharif, Andrew Smyth and Kimberly Petrovic. You can read what they had to say about the Dreamers Conference [here](#).