



# IN STRENGTH & UNITY

COLLEGE STAFF GUILD  
AMERICAN FEDERATION OF TEACHERS LOCAL 1521A

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## Hot Off The Press

### STAFF GUILD HIGHLIGHTS

- **LA Black Worker Center Update:** Black Worker Centers play a key role in establishing relationships between Black workers and the labor movement. In Los Angeles, Black workers have already had measurable success to increase job access for Black workers in the construction sector. Positioning Black workers at the center of labor's organizing efforts would benefit the entire labor movement reigniting the "jobs and freedom" tradition of Black organizing and setting forth a new progressive vision for Los Angeles. And last, but not least, prioritizing Black worker issues requires expanding the worker center model and deepening community-labor partnerships. <http://bit.ly/bwcongress>.
- **1521A Supports UCLA Labor Center:** On May 15, 2014 the UCLA Labor Center celebrated 50 years of worker justice at their annual banquet. UCLA Labor Center fights for funding in the university system to continue support for labor issues, student's needs and working families. Banquet honorees included Eric Garcetti, Mayor of Los Angeles; Mary Kay Henry, International President of the Service Employees International Union; and Tefere Gebre, Executive Vice President of the AFL-CIO. 1521A members were well represented at the banquet.
- **Giants of Justice Breakfast:** 1521A representatives will attend the 11<sup>th</sup> Annual Giants of Justice Breakfast presented by the Clergy & Laity United for Economic Justice (CLUE) Los Angeles. CLUE mobilizes, organizes, educate the faith community to walk with their families in their struggle for respect and dignity in the workplace and beyond. All religions believe in economic justice. Congratulations to all the honorees.
- **CalPERS Pension Changes:** At the CalPERS Board of Administration meeting held in Sacramento on February 18, 2014, the Board adopted new actuarial assumptions based on a recently completed experience study. The Board also adopted an asset allocation mix that lowers the CalPERS investment risk but largely keeps its investment strategy unchanged, holding the fund's long-term assumed rate at 7.5 percent.

- **Support Assembly Bill 2087:** In response to the accreditation issue at San Francisco City College, Assemblyman Ammiano introduced AB2087 which would prohibit the Board of Governors (BOG) from creating a special trustee that circumvents the powers of a locally elected trustee board. This bill would prevent the BOG from improperly removing the authority of a locally elected board of any community college district in California.
- **Support Assembly Bill 1942:** AB1942, a CFT sponsored bill by Assemblyman Bonta would allow community college districts to choose their own accrediting entity and restores accountability and transparency to the accreditation process imposing due process and public notice.
- **National Workers Memorial:** The National Workers Memorial was created in 2008 to serve as the only national monument to honor our brothers and sisters killed on the job or lost due to occupational illness. The National Labor College (Silver Springs, Maryland), where the memorial is currently housed, will be closing its doors at the end of the spring semester. At its recent meeting, the AFL-CIO Executive Council expressed its full support for the relocation of the Memorial to their headquarters in Washington, D.C.
- **AFT Supports LAANE:** The Los Angeles Alliance for a New Economy (LAANE) hosted the “Women for a New Los Angeles” luncheon on May 9<sup>th</sup>. It is the largest women’s event of its kind in Los Angeles, bringing together more than 500 diverse and progressive women leaders from different sectors of the community. LAANE honored Margo Feinberg, union labor lawyer, HBO TV series “Getting On” Nina Revoyr, novelist and Senator Holly Mitchell was emcee.
- **Volunteers:** On Saturday, May 10, 2014, the National Letter Carriers hosted a food drive. AFT 1521A sponsored a day of volunteers to help sort the food on Saturday May 17<sup>th</sup>. Thank you to Mike Romo (District) and the 1521A volunteers.
- **Personnel Commission:** Ann Young-Havens was reappointed to the Personnel Commission for another term, which expires November 30, 2016. The Staff Guild endorsed Young-Havens and participated on the interview committee.
- **Strategic Campaign Initiative:** 1521A has applied for the CFT Solidarity Matching Fund Grant to develop a program to strengthen our union through developing our political relationships with labor and community partners. We will build and maintain political coalitions that support the work of our local and state affiliates.
- **In Memory of Andre Gonzalez:** 1521A contributed to The Breast Cancer Research Foundation in memory of Andre Gonzalez, a 1521A member from Los Angeles Trade Tech College.