

## CASE OF COVID-19 CONFIRMED TODAY



This morning, the college learned that a SUNY Oneonta employee has tested positive for COVID-19. This is the first confirmed case of COVID-19 on our campus.

The affected employee is not at work and has been quarantined on campus since April 6, except to be tested for COVID-19.

We are a community of care that respects people’s privacy. The college will maintain the anonymity of the affected employee.

Earlier this afternoon, the Office of Human Resources notified campus community members who may have been in contact with the affected employee. The Otsego County Department of Health has collected information about such individuals to provide them with direction about ongoing precautionary measures.

The college also contacted the appropriate facility managers to request extra cleaning on high-touch areas where the affected employee works, such as handles, doorknobs, elevator buttons, bathroom stall doors, faucets, hand-rails, swipe areas, keypads, etc. This is consistent with guidance from the New York State Department of Health.

Thank you for following guidance and regulations aimed at keeping our college and community safe and slowing COVID-19’s spread. We are meeting the challenge of this pandemic, and I continue to be in awe of everything that we are doing to keep moving forward and support one another.

Sincerely,

Barbara Jean Morris, Ph.D.



## EARTH DAY 2020

As part of UUP’s continued partnerships with the US Youth Climate Strike and the March for Science, UUP is encouraging members to get involved with the virtual events beginning on Earth Day, April 22



The 50th anniversary of Earth Day is a little less than two weeks away. To celebrate Earth Day and to amplify our fight for social, economic and environmental justice, I am happy to share some resources and activities that will be taking place beginning on April 22. As part of UUP’s continued partnerships with the US Youth Climate Strike and the March for Science, we are encouraging members to get involved with their virtual events.

One of the members of our Earth Day Actions working group has a panel proposal and is looking for additional panelists to join them. We submitted the idea, so that it would be received by our coalition partners before the deadline passed. Our coalition partners have not made final decisions on panels yet, but we would like to begin gathering experts for this proposed panel. I have included the proposal we submitted, [please click here to view it](#), and I encourage you to reach out to Kristie Sammons, [ksammons@uupmail.org](mailto:ksammons@uupmail.org) if you are interested in being on this panel. Kristie will let the panelists know if/when the proposal is accepted.

We have also developed a UUP Earth Day 2020 webpage: <https://uupinfo.org/resources/earthday/>. This page will be a central location with details about all of the upcoming events. A lot of the information is still in the planning process, so we will continuously update the page. You can find the information I emailed earlier this week on the Earth Day webpage, and it will soon include a schedule of the US Youth Climate Strike and March for Science virtual events; an outline for how to get involved and take action, with links to graphics and posters; and a social media kit. We would also like to showcase members and chapters' action plans on the webpage. Please email Kristie Sammons, [ksammons@uupmail.org](mailto:ksammons@uupmail.org) with your plans.

In Solidarity,

*Fred*

Fred Kowal



EARTH DAY LIVE

Ready to help save the world?

APRIL 22-24.

JOIN US

## UPDATE FROM VICE PRESIDENT FOR ACADEMICS, RON BISHOP

I'd like to address a couple of concerns that have been expressed to me and suggest possible actions we can take together.

- If any of you still have charges on personal accounts from development activities that were canceled due to the pandemic and were not approved for reimbursement, please let UUP know right away. Even as our campus administration tightens control over department expenditures, your personal expenses should be reimbursed.
- Some of you have inquired whether faculty development funds that were forfeited by event cancellations this semester will be restored. Campus administrators have not, to my knowledge, definitively answered that question, and they haven't committed to fully funding professional development activities for the coming academic year. Clearly, this uncertainty is causing stress, particularly for those of us who are on the tenure track. If you have scholarship, performance or creative activity projects that will require funding that has been available in the past, please make that clear to your department chairs and let UUP know as well. We will advocate for your needs.

Carry on!

In solidarity,

*Ron*



## UPDATES ON FLEXIBLE SPENDING ACCOUNTS

The recently signed CARES Act (Coronavirus Aide, Relief, and Economic Security Act) enacts some changes to our Health Care Spending Account. Specifically,

- Over-the-counter drugs and medicines can be paid for or reimbursed without a doctor's prescription.
- Menstrual care products are now considered a qualified medical expense and are eligible for payment or reimbursement. All expenses incurred after December 31, 2019 qualify, and the provision has no expiration date.

WageWorks is currently working on programming to the debit card as well as to the list of qualified medical expenses to account for these changes. Programming should be completed soon. In the meantime, if an enrollee incurs a cost for an item that is newly eligible that wasn't correctly adjudicated as FSA eligible, the claim can be submitted through the app or online. Communication on these changes will be posted on our website. Current enrollees will also receive a communication.

**In addition, the deadline for submitting for reimbursement for the Health Care Spending Account and the Dependent Care Advantage Account has been extended from March 31 to April 30 to allow enrollees more time to submit claims for the 2019 plan year. Enrollees with an account balance were emailed a notice with the new deadline.**

VISIT NYSDOH COVID-19 WEBPAGE FOR MORE INFORMATION AT: [HTTPS://WWW.NY.GOV/CORONAVIRUS](https://www.ny.gov/coronavirus)

STAY UPDATED WITH THE GOVERNOR'S RECENT ACTIONS BY VISITING: [HTTPS://WWW.GOVERNOR.NY.GOV/](https://www.governor.ny.gov/)



## SUNY Oneonta athletics invites campus to participate in annual “Yards for Yearley” event Initiative geared to bring awareness to relationship violence

On **Tuesday, Apr. 14<sup>th</sup>**, the athletics department will be participating in the fourth annual Yards for Yearley event to support the One Love Foundation. The event is part of NCAA Division III Week, which celebrates the greatness of Division III and the impact student athletes have on their campus and in the surrounding community. This year’s event will be held remotely.

Athletics would like to invite all members of the campus community to participate by walking, jogging, biking, swimming, etc. and recording the number of miles you complete. Last year, our campus eclipsed 3,000,000 yards!

You can let us know how you did by using your social media accounts and posting your total number of miles using the #OneLove or #YFY. You can also send your total to Sara Curran-Headley ([sara.headley@oneonta.edu](mailto:sara.headley@oneonta.edu)). Sara will be collecting your totals until 9pm.

For more information about the One Love Foundation, visit <https://www.joinonelove.org/>

**SURVEY:** [Thoughts on becoming a smoke-free campus](#)



**SUNY  
ONEONTA**

### Still Time to Request Pass/Fail Grading

SUNY Oneonta students are embracing pass/fail grading. The college has received more than 700 requests for this option since making it available April 2. If you are considering pass/fail grading but have not requested it yet, you have through April 17 to do so. The college will review pass/fail grading requests by April 28.

Be sure to review all of your courses before requesting pass/fail grading because you can only make one request. In other words, you cannot request to take one course pass/fail today and then tomorrow request to take two other courses pass/fail.

Also, know that once your request is processed, it is final. You cannot choose pass/fail grading for a course now and then switch back to letter grading for that course later.

You can read the most common questions and answers about spring 2020 pass/fail grading and also make your request for it by clicking the button below. Of course, the offices of Academic Advisement and Financial Aid stand ready to help you decide what makes the most sense for your particular situation, too.

[\*\*PASS/FAIL GRADING\*\*](#)

## UUP TO HOST PRE- RETIREMENT WEBINAR

It's never too early to plan for your retirement. Please join UUP on **Tuesday, April 14 at 2:30 pm** for a Pre-Retirement Webinar hosted by Walter Apple, UUP Retiree Member Services Coordinator. The presentation should last until about 4 pm.

- For instructions on how to join, [please click here](#).
- To view and/or print the presentation, [please click here](#).

If you can not get these files to open or have any questions please let me know, [oneuup@oneonta.edu](mailto:oneuup@oneonta.edu).



### MEMBERS ONLY BENEFITS



BJ's offers UUP members discounted rates for new and renewing membership. If you need a BJ's Wholesale Club membership renewal form please email [oneuup@oneonta.edu](mailto:oneuup@oneonta.edu) and note if this is for a new BJ's membership or a renewal. This is a *members only* benefit.

### Not a UUP Member Yet?

Join your co-workers in the nation's largest higher education union

[JOIN HERE](#)

# WELCOME

to  
**uup**

*New employee?  
Missed orientation?  
Have questions?*

### WELCOME WEBINAR APRIL 15!

Welcome to Oneonta. As you are settling into your new position, I encourage you to get to know your union. If you need more information on our union-negotiated benefits, have questions about our contract, want to get more involved, or would like to know what other new employees'

concerns are - join us **Wednesday, April 15 at 1 PM** on the UUP Statewide New Employee Orientation webinar. This interactive webinar will be presented by Fred Kowal, UUP Statewide President and Doreen Bango, UUP Membership Benefits Director. Once you register to participate, you will receive an email with information on how to log-on to the webinar.

**Registration link:** <https://forms.gle/poro4xdTCAM3NCrD9>

We look forward to meeting you soon.

**David Lincoln**

UUP Oneonta Chapter President  
SUNY Oneonta Emergency Manager

[oneuup@oneonta.edu](mailto:oneuup@oneonta.edu)

#### TOGETHER WE ARE:



**32**  
CHAPTERS



**37000+**  
MEMBERS



**500+**  
JOB TITLES



**1**  
VOICE

## Strength and Support for our SUNY Oneonta Red Dragons

You will be heartened by our college's strength and actions during this COVID-19 health crisis as we collectively show support for our students, faculty, staff and alumni. Our faculty continues to work tirelessly to deliver their courses remotely to our students, many of whom are in the hardest hit areas. Our campus has come together as a community to help our students through this time, whether it be through loaner laptops, technical and advisement support, or an encouraging voice on the other end of the phone.

While we have experienced kindness and generosity for our students and campus colleagues, there are many challenges still before us. Some students will need additional financial support to complete their studies this semester, and some will even need funds for food or basic necessities. These are some of the reasons why our upcoming Day of Giving on April 16 is so important, and why we are grateful to Roz Hewsenian '75 for providing matching funds to the Student Emergency Fund, Student Success Scholarship and Fund for Oneonta.

The SUNY Oneonta family always comes together to help each other. That's been our way since 1889. And, our college's mission brings out the best in us: "We nurture a community where students grow intellectually, thrive socially, and live purposely."

Please make a gift today at [oneontaalumni.com/give](https://oneontaalumni.com/give) to help our students who have the most need. I wish you and your family health and safety. Thank you in advance for your support.

Warmest regards,  
Paul J. Adamo '81  
Vice President for College Advancement  
Executive Director, College at Oneonta Foundation



### [Oneonta Area Take Out and Food Delivery Services \(click here\)](#)



### Virtual Conversation With Dr. Morris This Week

President Morris will offer employees another opportunity for virtual conversation with her this week. The meeting will take place Wednesday, April 15, at 10:00 a.m.

[Join the Conversation](#)

+1 631-215-3388 United States, Brentwood (Toll)  
Conference ID: 257 355 332#