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Rutgers Administrative Staff Union Formation Confirmed

Approximately 2,000 member unit certified by Public Employees Relations Commission

NEW BRUNSWICK, June 6, 2007...The Union of Rutgers Administrators-American Federation of Teachers (URA-AFT) card check election has been officially verified by New Jersey's Public Employee's Relations Commission (PERC), confirming the majority decision reached by members of the Rutgers administrative unit.

"This is a huge step forward for Rutgers administrative staff," said administrative assistant Lucye Millerand. "The next step is bargaining a contract that will really address our members' needs. We are building an informed, active membership and counting on management's willingness to bargain in good faith. With both of those, we believe we can win a fair contract in the near future."

The new union delivered signed authorization cards to PERC on April 25 simultaneously launching the second phase of a campaign to organize first-level supervisors. These managers and directors work alongside the administrative staff and share concerns about pay, benefits and job security. Millerand noted that supervisors respected their administrative staff members' decisions about unionizing and pledged that the administrative group would actively support the supervisors' campaign.

"Just as we benefited from the active support of AAUP-AFT members in the faculty union, the other unions on campus and by working closely with the New Jersey AFL-CIO, we plan to support the supervisors' campaign. We believe everyone deserves to have representation and a voice at Rutgers," said Millerand.

A third group of Rutgers staff members, those with specific technical titles and training, are in a different group termed "professional" and are working with the Communications Workers of America (CWA), AFL-CIO in organizing their unit.

The Union of Rutgers Administrators is an affiliate of the American Federation of Teachers, the largest union of higher education employees.

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