



## Lamont to Front-line State Employees: ‘Thank You’



*In a SEBAC video released during the early stages of the coronavirus pandemic, Gov. Ned Lamont made a point to acknowledge the commitment, dedication, and sacrifice of the state employees on the front lines. The video also features our own Kate Falotico, an infection prevention nurse in the Department of Epidemiology. Watch it: [bit.ly/2003SEBACvid](http://bit.ly/2003SEBACvid)*

## Addressing the PPE Shortage



*UHP, UConn Health Labor Coalition Drive Effort to Protect Patients – and the Professionals Who Care for Them*

Working with faculty from AAUP at both UConn Health and Storrs, and graduate students in Storrs (Graduate Employees Union, UAW 6950), our **Elifho Obopilwe**, a research assistant, is among those helping solve the personal protective equipment (PPE) shortage. How? He’s been using the 3D printer in his lab in the UConn Musculoskeletal Institute lab to produce a specially designed plastic frame that creates a seal on N95 respirator masks, putting into play tens of thousands of N95s that previously didn’t fit properly. Full story: [bit.ly/2003UHPmasks](http://bit.ly/2003UHPmasks)

## PRESIDENT’S CORNER

### *In This Together*

In this fast-moving and nerve-wracking situation, it's important to remember to take a moment to acknowledge all the remarkable contributions we, as health care providers and those who support them, are making.



Therefore I want to first THANK YOU for your sacrifices and acknowledge what is at stake for you and your family.

This is affecting all of us to varying degrees of course, but we can draw strength – the way we always do in organized labor – from the knowledge that we're all in this together.

As of this writing all paths are leading to a patient surge, and we have been painstakingly working with UConn Health on staffing plans that are fair for our members while still executing our common and imperative mission to serve the public.

Because of the rapidly evolving nature of this pandemic, I am planning a series of video updates in the coming days and weeks. We're releasing them on Facebook and of course you'll be able to get to them through our home page, [uhp3837.com](http://uhp3837.com). (Please note, you don't need to have a Facebook account to watch these videos.)

In the meantime, please keep in mind our collective strength, and know that you have the unwavering gratitude and support not only myself but all of UHP leadership – for making our union and our institution things we can remain proud of as we weather this public health crisis.

**–In solidarity, Bill Garrity**

# Public Health Crisis? Public Employees Step Up!



*Top left: Nurses Erin Pietrowicz and Pierre Lepage work the drive-thru testing station on lower campus. Top center: M.A. Dawn Humphries delivers snacks donated from her grateful community to fellow health care workers; Dawn also helped secure more than 13,000 N95 respirator masks from a local supplier for UConn Health's use. Top right: a sign of public support on Route 4. Right: A bag containing 24 homemade masks from retirees Judy Hendenberg and Rose Unwin and their friend Nancy Griffith. Bottom left: Application developer Caibin Zhang (inset) worked*

*with a contact at Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center, Harvard University, to deliver a donation of 100 N95s, 50 medical grade masks, and 500 disposable masks to UConn Health. For up-to-date resources on the evolving COVID-19 situation, visit [bit.ly/2003UHPcovid](http://bit.ly/2003UHPcovid). Report symptoms or potential exposures to the UConn Health COVID-19 call center: 860-679-3199.*

## Dawn Thomas Rejoins Board

Dawn Thomas, an application architect of systems integration in the Department of Information Technology, rejoins the UHP Executive Committee, now in the role of vice president for political activities.

Dawn had served as VP for membership activities from 2004 through 2014 and also previously served as a steward and union rep.

"My goal is to get our members more engaged in the political activities that have the greatest impact on them and keep them educated," Dawn says.

Robin Washington Addison, who's been the VP for political activities since 2016, is now VP for community outreach. Trisha Faraday resigned from the outreach position in January.

While Dawn volunteers for the Susan G Komen More than Pink Walk, the Wallingford Little League, and the Boy Scouts, her favorite role is that of Mom to her 11-year-old son, J.



**Dawn Thomas**

## Tuition Waiver Deadline June 1

Applications for the tuition waiver benefit for dependent children for the fall semester are due in to HR **June 1**.

Reciprocal tuition requests for URI and UMane at Orno for the fall semester also are due **June 1**.

For more details, see Lifeline or email [tchasse@uchc.edu](mailto:tchasse@uchc.edu).