

# COUNCIL of NEW JERSEY STATE COLLEGE LOCALS AFT/AFL-CIO



1435 Morris Avenue Suite 3A  
Union, NJ 07083  
908-964-8476  
FAX 908-688-9330  
www.cnjscl.org

Tim Haresign  
President



## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

February 21, 2013

## CONTACT:

Executive Director Steve Young, 908-964-8476

### **State Higher Education Union Announces Buono Endorsement**

*Faculty, adjunct faculty, librarians and professional staff vote for change; launch education campaign*

“Under the Christie administration New Jersey has the worst job creation numbers of any state in the country and has suffered big cuts to funding in education,” said Tim Haresign, a Stockton biology professor and President of the Council of New Jersey State College Locals, an American Federation of Teachers affiliate representing more than 9,000 faculty, adjunct faculty, librarians and professional staff at New Jersey's nine state colleges and universities. “Senator Barbara Buono is dedicated to reversing these trends and fighting for a brighter future for the workers and students of the New Jersey.”

Delegates representing the College Council's eleven locals voted unanimously to endorse Buono and Haresign is calling on other public and private sector unions and progressive forces to join in the hard work necessary to turn around Governor Christie's lead in the polls. “Christie's re-election could have dire consequences such as we have seen in Wisconsin, where public employees lost collective bargaining rights, or Michigan, which just became a so-called ‘right-to-work’ state. These changes ultimately result in lower wages and benefits for all workers.”

Senator Buono has established a strong record of supporting education and labor during her time in the legislature, according to Haresign. “The highest priority of the College Council is ensuring a quality education for the students of New Jersey,” he said. “Senator Buono supports greater oversight of state college and university boards of trustees and has consistently voted to increase funding of public higher education. She has also sponsored legislation to limit tuition increases and to provide students with full information on costs and availability of loans and other forms of financial aid.”

Haresign said College Council delegates were impressed by key points in Sen. Buono's platform on workplace issues:

- 92% AFL-CIO voting record,
- advocacy of a higher minimum wage, pegged to inflation,
- support for guaranteed sick days, and
- protection of public employee health and pension benefits.

[MORE]

PAGE TWO: **State Higher Education Union Announces Buono Endorsement**

“She has consistently stood for collective bargaining as a bedrock principle in public employee labor relations,” said Haresign.

Senator Buono’s other accomplishments include a ban on the practice of predatory lending in which lenders issue loans with hidden costs and excessive fees to homeowners, said Haresign. As a candidate for governor, Buono has urged Governor Christie to accept federal funding under the Affordable Care Act to expand Medicaid to 300,000 needy New Jerseyans, so she is confronting the most pressing issues for working people, according to Haresign.

College Council’s endorsement means its local political committees will be working to educate colleagues and reach out to other workers and community groups throughout the state. College Council locals are located at The College of New Jersey, Kean University, Montclair State University, New Jersey City University and the A. Harry Moore School, Ramapo College of New Jersey, Richard Stockton College, Rowan University, Thomas Edison State College and William Paterson University.

**[END]**