

JULY 22ND, 2021

# AFSCME 3 NEWSLETTER

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## Preparing for Safe Campus Re-Openings in Maryland

After a long and difficult pandemic year, our AFSCME members in Higher Education are eager to bring back students this fall. Currently, our locals are engaging with the University System of Maryland to ensure safe campus reopening's this August. We think the voices of parents, students, alumni, and all staff should be included when campuses are making these decisions on how to safely reopen.

We know that many of our members, whether they work in Higher Education or not, care about making sure Maryland's Public Higher Education Institutions are reopening safely because they are either parents of students who attend one of these campuses, are alumni, or are enrolled in classes themselves on these campuses. If you fit into one of these categories, we want to hear from you!

Visit our website to access the survey: [www.afscmemd.org](http://www.afscmemd.org)

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## Safe Re-Opening Now: University System of Maryland Step Up

AFSCME Council 3 Higher Education Members are coming together across campuses to demand that the USM negotiate directly with AFSCME Council 3 all issues facing USM schools. USM employees demand and deserve safe working conditions, dignity in the workplace, and fair compensation. Join us online or in person on Thursday, August 5th!

Staff from across USM will work together with students and elected officials to demand respect now from the USM. We are urging safe re-opening policies including:

- Pay retroactive pandemic hazard pay to front-line staff who reported to campus during the pandemic. Thousands of other MD state employees received hazard pay for doing the same work as we do.
- Enact fair reopening policies including access to telework

We will have an online program starting at 11:30 am with messages from campuses across the University System of Maryland including live footage from the in-person rally.

RSVP For the Virtual Event or In Person Event on our website: [www.afscmemd.org](http://www.afscmemd.org)

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## AFSCME Wins Safety Enhancements for DGS Security Officers

**AFSCME Council 3 members in AFSCME Local 1535 from the Department of General Services won safety enhancements by fighting together! Security Officers were concerned about the lack of safety for staff working at the entrance of 500 N. Calvert St.**

**Working together with their union, members came together to ask management to enclose the desk for the protection and safety of staff members. Members worked together to urge management to take action to fix this safety gap through their labor-management committee. Earlier this month, management finally enclosed the office securing a victory for Local 1535 and all security officers!**

**Our members are the eyes and ears of issues in your workplace. We have to work together to enforce our contract and resolve issues in the workplace. To get more involved in resolving issues in your workplace, reach out to our Member Resource Center at 410.547.1515.**

"It really is members who set the priorities and drive change, and nothing happens without us. And it doesn't have to be very time consuming -- just attending the local meetings and staying informed go a long way to making sure all employee voices are heard and that we're supporting our co-workers.

I'm really proud of the work Local 1072 has done on behalf of employees during the pandemic, and how we have really shown up for each other on issues around equity, hazard pay, health and safety, budget cuts, and transportation."

**Leslie Lindsay**  
AFSCME Local 1072



### Steward Spotlight

**TROY SPEIGHTS**  
AFSCME LOCAL 3167

*Mr. Speights assisted with my appeal hearing. He was professional, maintained a calm demeanor during a tense situation and accurately represented my concerns.*

*He listened very carefully and was able to grasp the situation to help defend me against an undeserved disciplinary action.*

*Member Testimonial from Sameidra Carter AFSCME Local 112*

