Greetings DCE Faculty!

This update is being sent out to announce that the new DCE Negotiating Team has been appointed and has begun preparing to commence bargaining a new DCE contract, as our current contract expires on August 31, 2020.

We are excited and committed to bargain on your behalf. One of the first things to expect is a bargaining survey to be launched most likely in early April. This survey will be your opportunity to let our team know what your bargaining priorities are for our next contract.

In the meantime, you may contact the DCE Negotiating Team at any time at dceteam@mccc-union.org with comments, ideas or questions about bargaining. If there is anything that you think we should know regarding DCE matters at your campus, please don’t hesitate to send us an email.

**A note regarding COVID-19**

A number of you likely are getting advisories from your college administration regarding COVID-19, including communications and/or directives regarding general concerns and even potential closures due to the spread of this virus.

Please be advised that MCCC and MTA will be impact bargaining contingency plans and other matters related to COVID-19 with the community colleges this month.

If you have concerns about any such contingency plans or communications related to COVID-19, please communicate those concerns to your chapter leadership. Also, please let the DCE Team know about communications or contingency plans that you believe specifically impact the DCE Unit in a way the DCE Negotiating Team should be aware of.

Especially of concern to the DCE Negotiating Team is the matter of health coverage for adjunct faculty and any other MCCC member who is not benefitted in this way. MCCC and MTA are supporting current legislation to this end. The issue of health coverage is on everyone's radar even more so than before, and we know that increased pressure needs to be put on the powers-that-be to make it happen.

Stay healthy, and we hope you have a successful spring semester.

In Solidarity,

**The DCE Negotiations Team**
DeAnna Putnam (Chair - BHCC and MiCC), Linda Grochowski (Vice Chair - QCC), Laura Schlegel (Co-Secretary - HCC), Swan Gates (Co-Secretary - CCCC), George Medelinskis (CAT LIASON - NECC), with President Margaret Wong and Rosemarie Freeland, *ex-officio*. 