

Thank you for calling Local 1262's Information Hotline. This is the latest update from President Harvey Wille as of Friday, August 19 and contains an important update on the UFCW's Free College Programs. This hotline and other important information for our members can also be found on our website at www.ufcw1262.org.

Since 2016, the UFCW has been committed to helping our members and their families build a better life through our continuing education programs. We started this with our Free College program and were able to expand our offerings to include GED classes, foreign language classes, and workforce essentials classes, all at no cost to our members.

Unfortunately, we were made aware that Eastern Gateway Community College (EGCC) has been ordered to suspend the Free College program immediately because the Department of Education believes it violates Title IV of the Higher Education Act of 1965. EGCC disputes these charges, and you can read their response as well as answers to frequently asked questions here at <https://egcc.edu/press-release/>

Students who were already enrolled in the program by July 18 will be able to attend the Fall 2022 semester and the college is working on an alternative plan for students who enrolled after that date.

This program not only offered free college to UFCW members but to thousands of other union members. We firmly believe that all union members deserve the opportunity to better their lives through education. That is why we are working with both ECGG and the Department of Education to get answers to the questions raised by this decision and to figure out a solution.

We will keep you posted on this hotline and our website as we receive more information.

Please Note: Your access to our other educational programs, such as Free Foreign Language, Free GED, and Workforce Essentials, are not affected.

As always, I thank you – our more than 20,000 members here in New Jersey and New York - for your ongoing dedication and service to your communities. It is truly an honor and privilege to serve as your president.

That concludes this hotline.

Please ask your fellow Local 1262 Brothers and Sisters to join Local 1262's texting program. Simply text UPDATES1262 to 83071.

Concerns At Your Workplace?

Contact your Union Representative at 1-800-562-6913 (from New Jersey)

or 1-800-526-7814 (from other states).

We are here for you seven days a week.

FOR WEBSITE ADD: You can also listen to this message by calling Local 1262's Information Hotline at 888-438-1262.