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As a candidate for the Vice President of Professionals at the Binghamton Chapter of United University Professions, folks need to understand my values and priorities within our chapter, statewide, and in the labor movement.

First and foremost, while running for an officer position, I center a rank-and-file-driven, organizing approach to Our Union. Often, our members view UUP as a third-party service, seeking it out only when they need assistance with benefits or have workplace issues. Instead, we need to continue to work towards a democratic and transparent model that identifies that the power of Our Union is in its members (not “the union”), organizes from the bottom-up through issue-based campaigns, and involves members in solutions to problems that arise.

Material gains through contract negotiations are essential. I currently serve as our professional representative on the statewide ad hoc negotiations committee to continue fighting for the Contract we deserve. In addition, I work to envision a union that prioritizes the security and dignity of our members. The day-in and day-out degradation of people’s self-worth is at the heart of many workplace grievances. I am committed to assisting members with contractual and non-contractual issues by establishing a grievance and workplace concerns committee modeled after a similar structure at the UUP Stony Brook chapter. This model provides agency to our union siblings by giving them access to a range of services to continue to support and uplift their dignity, a basic human need.

I serve as the vice-chair of the statewide Women’s Rights and Concerns Committee because I recognize the connections between all forms of institutionalized oppression and how they function within our university system. Bigotry and hate in the form of racism, sexism, transphobia, homophobia, ableism, and ageism directly affect our members, fellow workers, students, and their families on- and off-campus. While the purpose of the labor movement is to increase our power over the conditions we work in, solidarity demands that we are only as strong as the most marginalized among us. UUP must continue to organize for the common good.

Contingents (professional and academic) are over forty percent of our bargaining unit and growing. We must continue to empower and be vocal advocates for those who have been and continue to be crucial to SUNY's workforce. I support actions at the chapter and state levels to create more job security, longer appointments, and pathways to permanency for our contingent union siblings. In doing so, I call for solidarity between contingents, professionals, and academics and an understanding that these are all our fights.

I look forward to working alongside all of you in this work.