

Getting to know...

Richard Ruggiero



**Business Office Assistant
ITS, Procurement,
Building Administrator
ITS**

**Union
Representative**



My name is Richard Ruggiero but I go by Red (Red hair and red beard). I've been with my lovely wife since 8th grade! I have 4 cats! Winston Furhill, Bubby, Midnight, and Munchkin. Three out of the 4 were feral. I used to work as a Direct Support Professional for HCA eventually becoming a Shift Manager, I left HCA to work One on One with an Individual at Springbrook. After Covid I found myself at Verizon, eventually wanting a better life for myself with more of work life balance. I left Verizon to work here at the University in April and immediately wanted to join the Union. Coming from Corporate America I saw the value right away.

QUESTION & ANSWER

Tell me about your job and why you love what you do?

I order all the Telecom and ITS construction materials for projects such as Newing/Dickensen, Science 3, New Academic A, etc. I manage the cellular device accounts for campus and UPD. I am also the ITS Building Administrator and Fleet Manager.

I like that everyday is different and I get to put on different hats. It's never boring. I especially love working for BU. The work life balance is incredible compared to retail.

How did you get involved with UUP?

After the first introduction I joined. I became a rep because I believe in change for the better, and I want to be a big part of that change. I like that unions are the voices for voiceless.

How do you make a difference?

I haven't made a significant impact yet, but I'm determined to. There's a specific issue I'm focused on, and I won't rest until it's addressed. My wife and I cannot have children, and we've come to terms with that. However, the current insurance structure at the University feels unfair. Adding my wife to my plan costs the same as covering a family of four. It feels like a penalty.

For single coverage, the cost is \$90 per paycheck, but family coverage jumps to \$324. That's an enormous difference, and there's no middle ground for couples without children. This disparity is not just a financial burden, it's a systemic issue that could have far reaching consequences, especially given our declining birthrate.

A couple's tier in insurance would make a significant difference for so many people, allowing them to allocate those savings elsewhere in their lives. I want to rally other union representatives on other campuses to push for this change. Together, we can advocate for a more equitable solution.

What about your community engagement; any hobbies?

My wife and I donate everything we can to Project Concern as opposed to throwing it away. During the holidays we go to Boscov's and select items from the tree to donate to those in need. Other than that I just try my best to be a good human, empathy goes a long way.

As for Hobbies, my wife and I love Anime, going to Ren Fairs, playing VR which usually results in me losing to her at Walkabout Mini Golf or Synth Riders, we love board games, hiking, biking, kayaking, arcades, just getting out there.