WORK ENVIRONMENT COUNCIL

AWARDS CEREMONY 2021
COMMENORATIVE JOURNAL

HONORING THE HEROES OF COVID-19

JUNE 16, 2021 | 7 PM
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June 16, 2021

Dear Friends,

Thank you for joining us at the NJ Work Environment Council's 2021 Awards Celebration. This year we honor the following individuals and organizations for their outstanding and we believe heroic work during the COVID-19 pandemic:

- **Ellie Barbarash**, Education/H&S Coordinator, Health Professionals and Allied Employees
- **Debbie Berkowitz**, Worker H&S Program Director, National Employment Law Project
- **Todd Vachon**, Director, Rutgers LEARN
- **Protect NJ Workers Coalition**, A diverse coalition of workers, worker centers, community groups, advocacy organizations, and labor unions, dedicated to expanding worker protections for all New Jersey workers
- **Wind of the Spirit Training Team**, Community Promoters playing a fundamental role in educating, organizing and mobilizing immigrant families

We also recognize **Nikki Baker**, an outstanding new leader who is an Instructional Assistant at Dale Avenue School in Paterson and an Educational Support Professional chair for the Paterson Education Association, a large local within NJEA. Nikki will receive our *Adrienne Markowitz Rising Star Award.*

As we gather to celebrate WEC and our COVID heroes tonight, we must also acknowledge the challenges the pandemic has caused for all of us, in our workplaces and homes. The past 16 months have impacted us in ways we could never have imagined. Many of us lost people close to us, and many more witnessed suffering we never expected to see.

COVID-19 tested all of us. But it also brought us opportunities to organize and grow stronger. Throughout the pandemic one thing became clear: **The fight for economic and worker justice must happen hand-in-hand with the fight for racial justice. The issues are inextricably linked.**

The COVID-19 heroes we honor this year did it all — examples include winning state policies for better COVID-19 protections for workers, advocating for a federal OSHA COVID-19 Emergency Temporary Standard, and hosting weekly educational webinars with the most up-to-date scientific and public health information. Unions across New Jersey also successfully sounded the alarm to protect their members and communities, including filing OSHA complaints against employers who egregiously endangered workers. These organizations and individuals exemplify what can be accomplished when we stand together.

Congratulations to the honorees and thanks to each and every one of you for your extraordinary efforts this year. Special thanks to everyone who sponsored, placed an ad in our commemorative journal, or purchased a ticket. We rely on your support to continue our work -- and we look forward to better days ahead!

In Solidarity,

Jim Young
President

Debra Coyle McFadden
Executive Director
NJ Work Environment Council
2021 Awards Ceremony Agenda

Welcome
Jim Young, WEC President

Invocation
Rev. Ronald Tuff, WEC Board Member

Remarks
Debra Coyle McFadden, Executive Director, WEC
Master of Ceremonies

Award to Debbie Berkowitz

Award to Wind of the Spirit Training Team

Rising Star Award to Nikki Baker

Award to Protect NJ Workers Coalition

Award to Ellie Barbarash

Award to Todd Vachon

Closing Remarks

To learn more about WEC or to become a member, go to njwec.org.
Ellie Barbarash joined the Public Policy team of Health Professionals and Allied Employees in 2018, hired as both Education Coordinator and Health and Safety Coordinator for a labor union of 22 healthcare locals representing 14,000 nurses, healthcare technicians and professionals working in NJ and parts of Philadelphia. Since March of 2020 her focus has been COVID safety, whether through worker trainings, town halls, or supporting members documenting occupational hazards during pandemic. Ellie has written and submitted more than 26 sets of OSHA or PEOSH complaints against HPAE employers; each complaint resulting in substantial fines and violations, moving employers to better improve infection control, OSHA compliance and worker safety. When not working on safety issues, Ellie coordinates and collaborates on curricula revisions and delivery of HPAE’s union leadership training program. HPAE’s heroic healthcare members have suffered countless illnesses and at least six COVID workplace fatalities to-date.

Before joining HPAE, Ellie developed and managed an OSHA Susan Harwood grant-funded safety training program (‘Health Workers Working Healthy’) for the Philadelphia District 1199C Training & Upgrading Fund, where she developed more than 15 new, participatory classes on occupational safety and delivered training to 6,500 frontline healthcare service workers.

Originally a ‘woman-in-the-trades’ working in steam demolition and excavation for the Port Authority of NY and NJ, Ellie earned her MS degree in Environmental and Occupational Safety from the C.U.N.Y. Hunter School of Health Sciences and holds board certification as a Certified Professional Environmental Auditor (CPEA) with a specialty in occupational safety and health. Ellie volunteered as an occupational safety First Responder during the 9/11 WTC disaster in 2001 while employed by the NYC utility ConEd. She has been listening to and providing safety training to frontline essential workers in healthcare, construction, utilities, municipal services and more for three decades; collaboratively documenting, negotiating, and fighting for safer workplaces and worker safety.
Debbie Berkowitz, NELP’s Worker Safety and Health program director, joined NELP in 2015, following six years serving as chief of staff and then a senior policy adviser for the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) (2009-2015).

Debbie has a long record of achievement in the field of occupational safety and health. Her past positions include health and safety director of the United Food and Commercial Workers Union and the health and safety director of the Food and Allied Service Trades Department of the AFL-CIO.

Debbie has led NELP’s efforts to strengthen federal and state worker safety and health protections, as well as state workers’ compensation laws. Over the past year, she was a leader in advocating for State and local ordinances to protect workers from COVID 19, including co-authoring a widely used tool kit on model policies. She also led NELP’s efforts to demand that Federal OSHA step up and protect workers from COVID 19 by issuing and enforcing an Emergency Temporary Standard. She is the author of widely cited NELP reports on improving worker safety and workers’ compensation systems. Debbie works with national and state partners to develop successful policies and campaigns that improve conditions for vulnerable, low-wage workers in dangerous industries, including temporary workers and those in the meat, poultry, and food industry.

Debbie is the recipient of numerous awards, including the American Public Health Association’s Alice Hamilton Award and was recently elected as a member of the National Academy of Social Insurance.
Todd E. Vachon

Todd E. Vachon, PhD is Director of the Labor Education Action Research Network (LEARN) and a faculty member in the Department of Labor Studies and Employment Relations at Rutgers University’s School of Management and Labor Relations (SMLR). As the Director of Rutgers LEARN, Todd oversees the University’s labor education programs, including classes and workshops for workers, unions, and other justice-focused organizations and public programming designed to: (a) strengthen the community at work, (b) facilitate its organization on a more democratic basis, and (c) address unjustified inequalities of power and wealth in society. When the COVID pandemic hit in March of 2020, Todd and LEARN partnered with the NJ Work Environment Council and Jersey Renews to host the weekly COVID-19 Update Webinar, “Saving Lives, Protecting Workers.” The series, which ran for 59 weeks, delivered up-to-the-minute critical information to workers, health & safety professionals, and advocates across the state, and created an online community of caring, sharing and repairing that reached thousands of viewers over the course of the Pandemic Year.

Todd earned his PhD in sociology from the University of Connecticut in 2018 where he helped to organize the graduate employee union-UAW Local 6950 and served as the first local president from 2015-2018. Prior to attending graduate school, Todd worked as a union carpenter, completing the UBC apprenticeship program with Local 24 in New London, CT in 2008. His research, which has been published in a variety of academic journals and edited books, focuses on inequality, labor, climate change, and justice—all topics he cares about deeply. His forthcoming book, co-edited with Tobias Schulze-Cleven is titled Revaluing Work(ers): Toward a Democratic and Sustainable Future and will be available from Cornell University Press in September 2021. His current project is a book about the American labor-climate movement, titled: Clean Air and Good Jobs: U.S. Labor and the Struggle for Climate Justice.

Todd currently serves on the executive council of the Rutgers AAUP-AFT, is Vice President of the Middlesex-Somerset Central Labor Council, and is a fellow with the Center for Innovation in Worker Organization (CIWO) where he contributes to the development of the Bargaining for the Common Good (BCG) program. When he’s not teaching, writing, or organizing, Todd enjoys spending time outdoors, with his family, or collecting vinyl records for his collection.
Protect NJ Workers Coalition

The Protect NJ Workers Coalition is a diverse statewide coalition of workers, worker centers, community groups, advocacy organizations, and labor unions, dedicated to expanding worker protections for all New Jersey workers. The Protect NJ Workers Coalition organized and brought workers’ voices to the Governor’s attention, resulting in Executive Order 192 and workplace safety and health training funds. The Coalition developed and delivered a multi-organizational state-sponsored COVID-19 Awareness and Prevention Program that trained over 80 worker-trainers that spanned across New Jersey delivering workplace and community awareness of COVID-19 training to thousands of frontline workers. Protect NJ Workers Coalition partner organizations continue to provide a space for workers to come together to strategize around enforcing labor standards and safe working conditions.
Since the birth of our organization in 2000, Occupational Health and Safety has been one of Wind of the Spirit, Immigrant Resource Center pillars. Since 2003, WotS Community Promoters have played a fundamental role in educating, organizing and mobilizing our community.

Community Promoters are workers with a holistic training including Health and Safety, infectious disease, emergency response, know your rights, human and constitutional rights, organizing, peace building, etc., that are ready to be activated when there is an emergency in our community. During the COVID 19 pandemic, following Health and Safety Protocols 30 WotS Community Promoters took to the streets and went door to door in multiple towns in the Morris & Union County area to educate thousands of immigrant families on how to prevent the COVID 19 spread and keep our communities safe. They also filled out census 2020 applications, trained marshals who participated in the BLM marches, delivered food for those who were vulnerable or sick, gave out more than 15,000 face covers and trained hundreds of people about covid 19 prevention and resiliency.
Nikki Baker

Nikki is an Instructional Assistant at Dale Avenue School in Paterson and an Educational Support Professional (ESP) chair for the Paterson Education Association (PEA). She is also a New Jersey Education Association (NJEA) Delegate Assembly Member for Passaic County Education Associations (PCEA).

Nikki, who is the mother of three children, has spent much of her career advocating for better conditions for herself and PEA's members, and connecting her union's issues to issues of social justice in her community. As ESP Chairperson, Nikki initiated an anti-privatization campaign to save ESP member jobs, through which she organized a Paterson Board of Education Member forum (Anti-Privatization of our Paraeducators). She has also attended and facilitated a number of trainings and train-the-trainers through the National Education Association (NEA), NJEA, PCEA, PEA, and NJ Work Environment Council (WEC), and has facilitated numerous workshops on economic justice developed at WEC and hosted by the PEA Public Relations Committee, using them to connect teachers and school staff to broader issues of social justice. She was awarded PEA ESP of the year (2018-2019).

During the COVID19 pandemic, she has been a vocal advocate for preventing the Paterson School District from resuming classes until every building is safe to return to. She is a founding member of the PCEA Equity Seekers, an organization that seeks to support education professionals in building an environment of social justice for all, and to break down systems of racism and oppression in Passaic County schools.
Congratulations
To Tonight’s Honorees
Your efforts in support of working folks
and their families is much appreciated!

Del Vitale, Director, USW District 4
1911 Sheridan Drive, Buffalo, NY 14223
(716) 565-1720  www.USW.org

Michael Fisher, Sub-District Director
2025 Lincoln Highway, Suite 130, Edison, NJ 08817
(732) 287-4011  www.USW.org
The 200,000 members of the New Jersey Education Association congratulate the honorees of the 2021 NJ Work Environment Council Awards.
Congratulations
WEC 2021
Honorees

Special Congratulation
To Our Own Hero
Ellie Barbarash,
HPAE Education/H&S Coordinator

Thank you for your
dedication and
outstanding work during the pandemic.
Thank you, Work Environment Council, and congratulations to:
Ellie Barbarash, Debbie Berkowitz, Protect NJ Workers Coalition, Wind of the Spirit and our AFT brother Todd Vachon

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The SEIU New Jersey State Council Congratulates NJ WEC’s 2021 Honorees

Stronger Together!

CWA Local 1036 Congratulates the 2021 WEC Award Recipients

Ellie Barbarash, Education/Health & Safety Coordinator Health Professionals and Allied Employees (HPAE)

Todd Vachon, Ph.D., Director, Labor Education Action Research Network (LEARN) & Faculty Member, Rutgers University School of Management & Labor Relations (SMLR)

Debbie Berkowitz, Worker Health & Safety Program, National Employment Law Project (NELP)

Protect New Jersey Workers Coalition

Wind of the Spirit Training Team

Adrienne Markowitz Rising Star Awardee:
Nikki Baker, Instructional Assistant, Dale Avenue School, Paterson, Educational Support Professional Chair, Paterson EA & NJEA Delegate Assembly Member for Passaic County

CWA LOCAL 1036
1 Lower Ferry Rd., West Trenton, NJ 08628 Representing over 7,600 Public & Private Sector Workers in New Jersey & Delaware
CONGRATULATIONS
TO WEC’S 2021 HONOREES
AND BEST WISHES FOR THE CONTINUED SUCCESS
OF THE WORK ENVIRONMENT COUNCIL

ELLIE BARBARASH
Health Professionals and Allied Employees (HPAE)

DEBBIE BERKOWITZ
National Employment Law Project (NELP)

TODD VAUCHON
Rutgers University’s School of Management and Labor Relations (SMUR)

NIKKI BAKER
Paterson Education Association

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JOE RUDOLPH
Trustee

ASHLEY TAYLOR
Sec. Treasurer

CONGRATULATIONS
TO WEC’s 2021 HONOREES
AND BEST WISHES FOR THE CONTINUED SUCCESS
OF THE WORK ENVIRONMENT COUNCIL

PROUD TO COLLABORATE
WITH NEW JERSEY WORK
ENVIRONMENT COUNCIL

Congratulations on
35 years protecting
New Jersey’s workers,
communities, and
natural resources.

PROUD TO COLLABORATE
WITH NEW JERSEY WORK
ENVIRONMENT COUNCIL

Congratulations on
35 years protecting
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PROUD TO COLLABORATE
WITH NEW JERSEY WORK
ENVIRONMENT COUNCIL

Congratulations on
35 years protecting
New Jersey’s workers,
communities, and
natural resources.
Respectfully Saluting

NJ WEC’s 2021 Honorees:
Ellie Barbarash
Debbie Berkowitz
Todd Vachon

Protect NJ Workers Coalition
Wind of the Spirit Training Team

Adrienne Markowitz Rising Star Awardee:
Nikki Baker

CONGRATULATIONS!

TO ALL THE AWARD WINNERS
ESPECIALLY OUR OWN
“RISING STAR”

NIKKI BAKER

Thank you to all our sponsors

Alberto Arroyo, Int’l V.P. / Co-Manager
Megan Chambers, Co-Manager
701-703 McCarter Hwy; Newark, NJ. 07102
(973) 735-6464
The BlueGreen Alliance and National Wildlife Federation congratulate tonight’s honorees.

We also thank the New Jersey Work Environment Council for all its efforts to ensure we have safe, secure jobs, and a healthy, sustainable environment.

Together, we are fighting for a stronger, fairer, cleaner environment. That’s why we put forward Solidarity for Climate Action, our platform to tackle climate change and income inequality at the same time.

Find out more and join our effort at www.bluegreenalliance.org/solidarity.
CONGRATULATES

awardees for their dedication & leadership in the fight for a clean environment, healthy communities and safe workplace

Adrienne Markowitz Rising Star Award:
Nikki Baker, Instructional Aid at Dale Avenue School in Paterson and an Educational Support Professional chair for the Paterson Education Association

Ellie Barbarash, Health Professional & Allied Employees
Debbie Berkowitz, National Employment Law Project
Todd Vachon, Rutgers Learn
Protect NJ Workers Coalition
Wind of the Spirit Training Team

has been empowering people for over 45 years to take action to protect America’s waters, workers, communities, health of our families & make democracy work.
National Union of Hospital and HealthCare Employees, AFSCME, AFL-CIO

Proudly supports the work of WEC in its efforts to save workers from job-related injuries, illness and death. The officers, staff and members of our union congratulate all of your worthy and distinguished honorees.

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9-25 Alling Street – 3rd Floor
Newark, New Jersey 07102
(973) 624-1199 – (973) 622-0801 Fax
www.district1199j.org
Congratulations

2021 WEC Honorees

With admiration and thanks for WEC’s work.

The Rev. Fletcher Harper
Executive Director

greenfaith

101 South Third Avenue
Highland Park, NJ 08904
Ph. (732) 565-7740
Fax (732) 565-7790
Email: info@greenfaith.org
website: www.greenfaith.org

Spirit, Stewardship and Justice
LNS CONGRATULATES

TODD E. VACHON

For well-deserved recognition by the New Jersey Work Environment Council for Outstanding Work During COVID-19.

The Labor Network for Sustainability (LNS) is honored to work with Todd in our fight for climate, workers and equity. Each day, we’re inspired by his enthusiasm, dedication and wisdom.
The Latino Institute, Inc. is now offering school districts dynamic workshops to empower parents with skills and knowledge to be better partners in the education of their children. The workshops may be conducted virtually or in person at your schools. The following themes, and others, are available:

- Immigration Rights
- Stress Management for the Family
- Sexual Identity for Teenagers
- Leadership
- College Financial Aid: A Primer for Parents
- Drivers Licenses for the Undocumented
- Motivating the Unmotivated Student
- Cultural Heritage Workshop
- Social media: texting, sexting and other issues
- Communications Skills at Home

These workshops are available in English or Spanish.

For pricing and scheduling

Please contact Bill Colón at parentconferences1@gmail.com
THANK YOU, NJWEC AND HONORED HEROES!

FROM YOUR FRIENDS AT NATIONAL COSH!

WWW.NATIONALCOSH.ORG FOLLOW US @NATIONALCOSH
¡Ya es Hora!

New Labor congratulates WEC for its continued fight for safe and healthful jobs!

Congratulations to all the honorees:
Ellie Barbarash- Frontline fighter!
Todd Vachon- DJ!
Debbie Berkowitz- Health and safety guru!
Wind of the Spirit Training Team- ¡Dále!
Nikki Baker- Rising Star!

and the Protect NJ Workers Coalition- Fighting to build collective worker power in the pandemic and beyond!

¡La lucha sigue!
CONGRATULATES
THE
NEW JERSEY WORK ENVIRONMENT COUNCIL

CONGRATULATIONS TO TONIGHT’S HONOREES:

Ellie Barbarash
Debbie Berkowitz
Todd Vachon
Protect NJ Workers Coalition
Wind of the Spirit Training Team

Adrienne Markowitz
Rising Star:
Nikki Baker

From the Board & Staff of
New Jersey Citizen Action
The Hahne’s Building
625 Broad Street, Suite 270
Newark, NJ 07102
Phone: (973) 643-8800
www.njcitizenaction.org
Ocean Wind – Leading the way to New Jersey’s clean energy future
The Trustees and Staff of
The American Labor Museum / Botto House National Landmark
congratulate the
New Jersey Work Environment Council
and the outstanding honorees for 2021:

Ellie Barbarash
Debbie Berkowitz
Todd Vachon
Protect NJ Workers Coalition
Wind of the Spirit Training Team
&
Nikki Baker

In 1913, thousands of striking silk workers found a safe haven at the Botto House. Today, we continue that tradition by hosting union meetings.

Please contact us for information on tours, exhibits, educational programs, meetings, our library, museum store, Silk Walk engraved bricks, special events, memberships and more.

VISITING THE AMERICAN LABOR MUSEUM
83 Norwood Street, Haledon, NJ 07508
☎ 973-595-7953 ☎ 973-595-7291 ✉ labormuseum@gmail.com

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All other times by appointment
Closed major holidays; open Labor Day

Directions: Please visit www.labormuseum.net or contact us.
CONGRATULATIONS

TO THE

2021 New Jersey Work Environment Council Honorees

Ellie Barbarash
Debbie Berkowitz
Todd E. Vachon

Protect NJ Workers Coalition

Wind Of The Spirit Training Team

Adrienne Markowitz
Rising Star Awardee:
Nikki Baker

David Tykulsker & Associates
161 Walnut Street, Montclair, NJ 07042
(973) 509-9292
Rutgers AAUP-AFT joins the Work Environment Council in honoring our very own **TODD VACHON**.

Todd is a hero for his outstanding work as director of Rutgers LEARN during COVID-19, but he is also a hero of our union for his commitment to fight for his fellow postdocs and all our members.

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**CONGRATULATIONS**

**TO ALL WEC HONOREES**

*WEC*

*With special thanks for Demonstrated Leadership in pursuit of a publicly-owned New Jersey State Bank!*

Walt McRee & Joan Bartl  
Co-Directors

**Banking On**

**NEW JERSEY**

www.BankingOnNewJersey.org
Barry Commoner Center, Queens College, CUNY
Salutes
New Jersey Work Environment Council
And Honorees

Ellie Barbarash, Health Professionals and Allied Employees
Debbie Berkowitz, National Employment Law Project
Todd Vachon, Rutgers LEARN
Protect NJ Workers Coalition
Wind of the Spirit Training Team
and
Nikki Baker, Instructional Assistant, Dale Avenue School
*The Adrienne Markowitz Rising Star Awardee*
CONGRATULATIONS

to
All of the Honorees and Award Recipients

at the
Work Environment Council's
2021 Awards Ceremony

CWA Local 1081
Congratulates

WEC’s Awardees

CWA Local 1081
David H. Weiner, President
60 Park Place, Suite 501
Newark, NJ, 07102
Environment New Jersey congratulates the NJ Work Environment Council on building the legacy of blue green alliances across New Jersey and thanks tonight's honorees:

**Ellie Barbarash, HPAE**
**Todd Vachon, Rutgers LEARN**
**Debbie Berkowitz, NELP**
**NJ Protect Workers Coalition**
**The Wind of the Spirit Training Team**

Adrienne Markowitz Rising Star Award
Nikki Baker

The Clinical Center at

**Congratulations to the Honorees!**

Ellie Barbarash, HPAE
Debbie Berkowitz, NELP
Todd Vachon, PhD, LEARN
Protect NJ Workers Coalition
Wind of the Spirit Training Team

*We also recognize the Adrienne Markowitz Rising Star Awardee:*

Nikki Baker, Instructional Assistant, Dale Avenue School Paterson EA, Passaic County, ESP

Howard Kipen, MD, MPH; Iris Udasin, MD; Michael Gochfeld, MD, PHD; Julie Caruth, MD, MPH; Robert J. Laumbach, MD, MPH, CIH; Michael E. Pratt, MD, MPH; Nancy Fiedler, PhD

[https://eohsi.rutgers.edu/centers/clinical-center-for-environmental-and-occupational-medicine/](https://eohsi.rutgers.edu/centers/clinical-center-for-environmental-and-occupational-medicine/)
Congratulations to NJ WEC for their proud tradition and all the honorees for organizing and building our movement for safe, secure jobs and a healthy, sustainable environment.

Proudly working with labor on delivering health and safety training programs from HAZMAT to hurricane recovery workers with:

- International Chemical Workers Union Council
- United Food and Commercial Workers Union
- International Association of Machinists and Aerospace Workers
- Coalition of Black Trade Unionists
- American Federation of Teachers
- American Federation of Government Employees
- National Nurses United
- National Council for Occupational Safety and Health
- Labor Council for Latin American Advancement
- Association of Occupational and Environmental Clinics
- American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees

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**CONGRATULATIONS!**

New Jersey Work Environment Council

*and the*

2021 Honorees

**Standing Up for Frontline Workers**

From the WEC Industrial Hygiene Team

- Dave Newman
- Peter Dooley
- Dorothy Wigmore
- Tamara McNair
- Uday Singh
- Allen Barkkume
- Ed Lesser
- Bryan Reyes
- Pam Susi
Congratulations to Nikki Baker, Paterson EA, ESP, and all the other WEC Honorees!

Thank you for your hard work and dedication which helped keep staff, students, community members, and other NJ workers safe during the pandemic.

From the Monmouth County Education Association
CONGRATULATIONS

to all of the NJ Work Environment Council 2021 Honorees!

NEW JERSEY
POLICY PERSPECTIVE

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njpp.org

Congratulations to
Todd Vachon
and all of the Honorees!

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Felicitaciones to our dear friends and partners at
Wind of the Spirit Training Team!

And congratulations to all the other WEC Honorees:
Ellie Barbarash, HPAE
Debbie Berkowitz, NELP
Todd Vachon, PhD, LEARN
Protect NJ Workers Coalition
and
Nikki Baker, Paterson Education Association, winner of the
Adrienne Markowitz Rising Star Award

With gratitude for your efforts on behalf of NJ’s working people!

From the staff at The Labor Institute

UNITED STEELWORKERS
LOCAL 397

Congratulations to all the honorees!

From the Officers and Members of United Steelworkers Local 397

Dennis Cosgrove, President
Dan Bechtold, Vice President
Mike Klosek, Treasurer
Robert Hruska, Recording Secretary
Thanks to Wind of the Spirit for their dedication to worker safety and health, and for being a valuable training partner of the TMC!

WEC played a significant role in COVID-19 worker education and advocacy in 2020. WEC:

- **Won with allies** in the NJ Coalition to Protect Workers the Worker Protection EO -- one of the strongest in the country
- **Produced with Rutgers LEARN 35 weekly episodes** of our series, Saving Lives, Protecting Workers with 3,880 attendees
- **Trained 300 workers** on prevention and awareness
- **Responded to 150** technical assistance requests
- **Contributed to 3 reports**, [National COSH: Safe & Just Return to Work](#); [National Call to Action: The Pandemic v. Schools](#); and [Roadmap Toward a Just, Green Recovery](#)

Learn more about WEC at [www.njwec.org](http://www.njwec.org).
Well Done!
2021 WEC Awardees
★ Ellie Barbarash
★ Debbie Berkowitz
★ Todd Vachon
★ Protect NJ Workers Coalition
★ Wind of the Spirit Training Team
Adrienne Markowitz Rising Star Awardee:
★ Nikki Baker
Thank you!
Eileen Senn

CONGRATULATIONS
To all the WEC Honorees
**********
Ellie Barbarash
Debbie Berkowitz
Todd Vachon
Protect NJ Workers Coalition
Wind of the Spirit Training Team
and
Adrienne Markowitz Rising Star
Nikki Baker
**********
Laura Kenny
Congratulations, 2021 WEC Honorees

The Rev. James Bailey
President,
Newark Baptist Ministers Conference

Ph. (973) 610-7273
Email: revjames1212@aol.com

New Brunswick Education Association
83 Morris Street New Brunswick, New Jersey 08901
The New Brunswick Education Association
Congratulations
Nikki Baker
and
The 2021 Work Environment Council Honorees
LeShaun Arrington, President
Melissa Vega, 1st Vice President
Cynthia Brown, 2nd Vice President
Randall Miller, Treasurer
Karen Asson, Recording Secretary
Melissa Howard, Corresponding Secretary
Latifa Bell, Member at Large
Lisa Capote, Member at Large
Carolyn Newsom, Member at Large

Congratualtions
Debbie Berkowitz
for being honored by the NJ Work Environment Council for your outstanding work advocating for the health and safety of New Jersey’s frontline workers during the COVID-19 pandemic.

—from your colleagues at NELP

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NEWARK WATER COALITION

NJ21United congratulates and thanks all of the WEC Award recipients for all that they have done to keep workers and communities safe this past year.

Congratulations to all the honorees!

Reba Foster
President
NJ Black Issues Convention

Congratulations to this year's honorees on their well-deserved recognition

With appreciation for your inspirational leadership in making New Jersey a better place to live and work.

NEW JERSEY SUSTAINABLE BUSINESS COUNCIL
The Paterson Education Association congratulates Nikki Baker, the recipient of the Adrienne Markowitz Rising Star Award.

Nikki Baker has been an Instructional Assistant at Dale Avenue School in Paterson for 18 years. She serves as the Educational Support Professional Chair and PR&R Committee member for the Paterson Education Association. Nikki is also an NJEA Delegate Assembly Member for Passaic County and Co-Founder of PCEA Equity Seekers. On behalf of the PEA leadership and members, Nikki, we celebrate your dedication, advocacy, and hard work!

www.njpsa.org

Congratulations

Nikki Baker

Graduating Every Paterson Child

www.njpsa.org
COVID-19 Awareness and Prevention
Through the NJ COVID-19 Awareness and Prevention Training, workers, employers and worker representatives will gain knowledge through participatory training sessions to reduce the risks of exposure to COVID in the workplace.

Hazard Mapping
Participants examine hazards in their industries and learn how to develop a map to identify, locate, and evaluate hazards so they can be targeted for elimination.

Identifying Safety System Failures
Participants gain knowledge and skills needed to identify failed systems in their facilities and the importance of a root cause analysis approach to accident investigations.

Contact Cecelia Leto at cgilliganleto@njwec.org or Walter Diaz at wdiaz@njwec.org for more information.
FRIENDS OF WEC

Alexis Rean-Walker
Alice Freund
Amy Bahruth
Avery Grant
Carmen & Fran Martino
Dan Fatton
Dave Zboray
Debbie Berkowitz
Debbie Lancaster
Denise Patel
Diane & Ed Coyle
Dr. & Mrs. Brian P. Gable
Elizabeth "Liz" Smith
Hailey Duncan
Jeanne Otersen & Rick Engler
Jeff Moran
Jessica Valladolid
Joe & Betty Castro
Margaret B. Sorge
Melissa Tomlinson
Michael Merrill
Michele Ochsner
Osorio Lamb Family
Patricia Stanley
Tom Hutchison
NEW JERSEY WORK ENVIRONMENT COUNCIL
PAST HONOREES 2001 – 2020

**Individuals**

Ana Baptista    Michael Gordon  Ed Rodgers
Marie Blistan    Peter Guzzo  Joyce Powell
Assm. Tim Eustace Thomas Hardy  Hetty Rosenstein
Patricia Bauman  Rev. Fletcher Harper  Jim Rowe
Bob Beck         Ken Hoffner  Harriet Rubenstein
Beatrice Bernzot Lisa Jackson  Phyllis Salowe-Kaye
Valerie Caffee   Reginald Johnson  Eric Scherzer
Rev. Dr. Charles F. Boyer Adam Liebtag  Peg Seminario
Noel Christmas   Bill Lucy  Eileen Senn
Gov. Jon Corzine  Dena Mottola Jaborska  Nicky Sheats
Diana Crowder    Sen. Frank Lautenberg  John Shinn
Michelle DePass  Edward Lloyd  Elizabeth Smith
Deborah Ehling   Adrienne Markowitz  John Sweeney
Rick Engler      Brandon McCoy  Jeff Tittel
Dan Fatton       Analiia Mejia  Rev. Ronald Tuff
David Foster     Jane Nogaki  Sen. Shirley Turner
Colandus “Kelly” Francis  Doug O’Malley  Ann Twomey
Leo Gerard       Jeanne Otersen  David Tykulsker
Bernie Gerard, Jr. Marien Casillas Pabellon  Sen. Loretta Weinberg
George Geist     John Pajak  Jim Young
Amy Goldsmith    William Pienta  Bennet Zurofsky
Juan Gonzalez    Christopher Placitella

**Organizations/Coalitions**

Coalition for Healthy Ports
Concerned Citizens Coalition of Long Branch
Fredon Education Association, Board of Education, and Parents Against the Lines
Health Professionals and Allied Employees (AFT) Local 5118
International Chemical Workers Center for Worker Health & Safety Education
Ironbound Community Corporation
New Jersey Education Association
New Labor
Northeast Regional Council of Carpenters
Patients First
Trenton Healthy Schools Now Coalition
United Food and Commercial Workers (New Jersey Locals)
United Steelworkers Tony Mazzocchi Center
Williams Cuker Berezofsky Law Firm

**Rising Star Award**

Carimer Andujar  •  Justis Brown  •  Reynalda Cruz  •  Nicole Scott Harris
Yolanda Hernández Sanchez  •  Eric Jones  •  Kason Little

**OUR MISSION**

The New Jersey Work Environment Council (WEC) is an alliance of labor, community, and environmental organizations working together for safe, secure jobs, and a healthy, sustainable environment. WEC links workers, communities, and environmentalists through training, technical assistance, grassroots organizing, and public policy campaigns to promote dialogue, collaboration, and joint action.

For more information about WEC, please visit www.njwec.org
Get Involved with WEC!

Prevent Toxic Catastrophes &
Respect our Right to Know

We demand strong chemical security policies to protect our lives, jobs, health, schools, and businesses from toxic catastrophes. The State needs to provide public access to municipal and county chemical Emergency Response Plans and information about high hazard trains crisscrossing the Garden state.

Everyday working people just can’t seem to get ahead. We work longer and harder and still can’t stretch our paychecks. This doesn’t seem to impact the very wealthy among us who seem to play by a separate set of rules. Someone is profiting from unsafe communities and work environments - and until we identify them, we cannot address these issues

Every school day in New Jersey, children, teachers, and school staff face conditions that can cause illness or injury and that make it harder to teach and to learn. We demand healthy and modernized schools for all students and staff regardless of zip code.

New Jersey can and must address our climate and inequality crises together. Jersey Renews, launched by WEC, Environment NJ and Greenfaith, is a broad-based coalition of 70 labor, environmental and community groups fighting for state leadership on climate and good, family-sustaining jobs in the transition to a green economy.
WEC 2021 AWARDS CEREMONY SPONSORS

Platinum

United Steelworkers
HPAE
NJECA

Gold

AFTRJ
CWA
SEIU

Silver

Local 194 AFL-CIO
CWA

Bronze

Earthjustice
Passaic County Education Associations
CHARGEvC NJ

Local 877