

Jennifer J. Raab, President

March 26, 2023

Welcome to Hunter College and the 50th anniversary conference of the National Center for the Study of Collective Bargaining in Higher Education and the Professions.

The theme of this year's annual conference is Collective Bargaining in Higher Education Looking Back, Looking Forward, 1973-2023. We are honored and delighted that political philosopher, author, and Harvard University professor Michael Sandel is our keynote speaker.

The National Center is a CUNY labor-management research center, one of the many substantive academic centers at Hunter College. I am proud of its continued growth and depth since it joined the Hunter College community two decades ago.

The National Center is a unique interdisciplinary research center dedicated to studying the use of collective bargaining as an important means of advancing labor relations in higher education and other fields. It plays a critically important role by bringing administrators and labor representatives from around the country together to examine current and historical collective bargaining and labor relations issues at conferences, workshops, and webinars.

For close to two years, the National Center has been engaged in a nationwide survey to collect current information about academic collective bargaining units and contracts at universities, colleges, and community colleges. Its research team has included faculty, doctoral, graduate and Hunter College undergraduate students. The data collected will form the basis for the next directory of collective bargaining relationships around the country as well as other National Center scholarship.

The National Center continues to publish and present its data-based and historical research at conferences around the country. This year, its research will be part of a volume on higher education labor history to be published by the University of Illinois Press. Its research and analysis are frequently cited in articles in the Washington Post, Chronicle of Higher Education, Inside Higher Ed and Bloomberg Law.

Hunter College is proud to be the home of the National Center, which helps us fulfill the Hunter motto: Mihi Cura Futuri - The Care of the Future is Mine. It gives me great pleasure to acknowledge the people who work tirelessly throughout the year to make this conference—and all the work done by the National Center—possible.

Thanks again go to Executive Director Bill Herbert and Administrator Michelle Savarese, whose dedication to the National Center is unparalleled; to the administrators and labor representatives who serve on the National Center's Board of Advisors and who are so very generous with their time and knowledge; and to the co-editors of the National Center's Journal of Collective Bargaining in the Academy, who, along with the journal contributors, provide fresh research and analysis.

Thank you for attending this year's conference.

Sincerely,



Jennifer J. Raab