

2026-2027 Staff Senator Campaign Statements

CAMDEN CAMPUS

Ojobo Agbo Eje, Senior Program Coordinator, Research Office

I am seeking election to the Rutgers Senate because I care deeply about the direction of this university and want to contribute meaningfully to the conversations that shape it.

As a Senior Program Coordinator at Rutgers-Camden, a Rutgers alum of the Data Science graduate program, and former Student Governing Association Graduate Representative (2024–25), I have had the opportunity to work alongside faculty, staff, and students navigating real challenges. I have seen how much it matters when those voices are genuinely heard in institutional decision-making.

Much of my recent work has centered on leading the AI Campus at Rutgers-Camden, a cross-disciplinary initiative I have been leading to build responsible AI innovation, adoption, and literacy across academic and professional communities here at Camden. Through that work, I have come to appreciate how important it is to create spaces where people from different disciplines and backgrounds can think through emerging opportunities and challenges together, not just react to them.

That spirit is what draws me to the Senate. I am particularly passionate about fostering interdisciplinary collaboration, ensuring that students and staff have meaningful representation in university priorities, and helping Rutgers approach emerging technologies like AI with both curiosity, effort, and care.

I believe that shared governance works best when it reflects the full breadth of a university community. I would be honored to bring my experience, my commitment to listening, and my enthusiasm for Rutgers-Camden to that work.

Brian K. Everett, Assistant Dean, Honors College

Representing the Camden campus' staff on the University Senate requires gumption. It also requires respect for the shared governance of our university experience. I have always tried to advocate for better experiences by compiling what you have brought to me as ideas or concerns, in hopes that our campus excels in serving students, and excels in employee satisfaction.

Workplaces of all sorts face remarkable challenges today. Some challenges are external, some are internal, and many are due to Artificial Intelligence. I believe that these challenges can be overcome by remembering 3 things:

1. Staff across all of Rutgers-Camden keep the campus running, no matter which problems arise.
2. Staff are deeply embedded into the fabric of university life, and we understand how one thing can affect the other, for better or worse.
3. The university is, and will continue to be, a people-focused enterprise. When we collectively embrace this ideal, together, we move each other and the University forward.

I approach my role as a University Senator by viewing staff as essential members of Rutgers' success. I reject all notions of the dispensability of staff.

During these times of change and upheaval, I truly do look forward to continuing our work together within the University Senate, so please vote for me. Our strong hearts will always lead us well. Thank you.

Mitch Larson, Assistant Dean, The Graduate School

As a two-time alum and someone who started their professional career as a Scarlet Raptor, left to pursue a new opportunity, and then returned home several years later, I bleed scarlet through and through. But, my time at Rutgers-Camden and another institution also helps me to understand how singular a place Rutgers-Camden is within the university's system and within the larger higher education industry. As well as the ways in which we are uniquely positioned to support our students and where there are gaps in our ability to do that which need to be advocated for. I know how special a place Rutgers-Camden can be, both as a student and as a staff member. I would love to take my passion for our campus community and advocate for us on the University Senate.

Madeline M. Levy, Director of Career and Academic Success Initiatives - Student Academic Success

I am honored to be considered for a seat on the Rutgers University Staff Senate and would welcome the opportunity to represent and advocate for my colleagues across the university. Throughout my career and my time at Rutgers, my work has been grounded in supporting student success while collaborating with staff and faculty across departments to strengthen the systems that make that success possible.

In my role overseeing the **Career and Academic Success Unit**, I have developed our teams to work closely with students to help them build the skills, confidence, and experiences necessary to succeed both academically and professionally. This work has reinforced for me how critical staff collaboration and shared knowledge are to the student experience and to the success of our institution.

Beyond my daily work, I have actively contributed to the university community through service on several committees. Through these groups, I have worked alongside colleagues from across the university to create meaningful opportunities for students, recognize the contributions of staff, and strengthen partnerships that enhance experiential learning.

If elected to the Staff Senate, I will bring a collaborative approach, a commitment to listening, and a strong belief that staff voices play an essential role in shaping the future of Rutgers. I am passionate about building connections across units, advocating for staff perspectives, and supporting initiatives that strengthen both our workplace and the student experience.

I would be proud to serve and represent the dedication, expertise, and impact of Rutgers staff.

Priscilla McCoy, Senior Scheduling Officer, Enrollment Management, Office of the Registrar

I am pleased to submit my self-nomination for Staff Senator. My 12 years of experience as a staff member in the Office of the Registrar, as an active member of the Union of Rutgers Administrators (URA-AFT Local 1766), and as a proud alumna of the Camden College of Arts and Sciences provides me with a unique perspective.

Having worked closely with deans, senior management, staff and students, I understand institutional operations while also appreciating student needs, a combination that enables me to effectively bridge these groups. I believe this perspective would be valuable to the Senate's work.

During my time as a graduate student, I served as Treasurer of the Graduate School Organization, where I collaborated with advisors and students to foster community engagement through networking initiatives and academic support events. I also represented student interests on the Student Government Association's Student Learning Experience Committee, advocating for enhanced learning tools and facility improvements.

These experiences have deepened my understanding of the academic policies and standards that the Senate oversees, from admissions and honors to curriculum governance and the university calendar. I am committed to bringing that informed, multifaceted perspective to every matter the Senate considers. I would be honored to serve as Staff Senator and contribute meaningfully to the shared governance of our university.

Craig Roscoe, Senior Project Coordinator in the Office of the Senior Vice President

My name is Craig Roscoe, and I am writing to formally submit my self-nomination for the Rutgers University Senate staff election representing the Camden campus.

I currently serve as Senior Project Coordinator in the Office of the Senior Vice Chancellor for Enrollment Management & Student Academic Success. In this role, I work closely with campus leadership, staff, and students to support initiatives that strengthen institutional coordination, advance student success, and enhance the overall student experience. This work has provided me with a broad perspective on the important collaboration that occurs across departments and the vital role staff play in supporting the mission of Rutgers University.

As a proud Rutgers–Camden alumnus and current staff member, Rutgers has played a transformative role in both my personal and professional journey. My experiences as both a student and a professional have deepened my commitment to strengthening the university community and ensuring that staff voices are meaningfully represented in shared governance.

My work at Rutgers–Camden has reinforced my belief that collaboration, communication, and shared responsibility are essential to building a strong campus community. Staff members bring valuable insight and expertise to the university's decision-making processes, and I believe it is important that those perspectives are represented and respected within shared governance.

If elected to the Senate, I will approach the role with a commitment to listening, thoughtful engagement, and collaboration. I would be honored to represent my colleagues, contribute to meaningful dialogue, and support policies that strengthen our university community and advance the mission of Rutgers University.

NEW BRUNSWICK CAMPUS

Ahmad Arshad, Director Programming and Web Development / SAS IT - Dean's Office

I am submitting my candidacy to represent staff from Rutgers–New Brunswick on the University Senate. I serve as Director of Programming and Web Development in the School of Arts and Sciences, the university's

largest school. My work involves building and maintaining systems that support academic programs, administrative operations, and public-facing information for students, faculty, and staff.

This role places me at the intersection of academic units, administrative offices, and university infrastructure. I regularly work with teams across the institution to translate operational needs into working systems and processes. That experience has given me a clear view of how policies and institutional decisions affect the daily work of staff and the services we provide to the university community.

If elected, I will represent staff with a focus on practical outcomes, operational clarity, and institutional coordination. I value careful review of proposals, direct engagement with colleagues, and thoughtful participation in shared governance. I would approach the role with the goal of representing staff perspectives and contributing to decisions that support the long-term effectiveness of Rutgers.

Thank you for your consideration.

Henggao (Henry) Cai, OIT-EARC, Software Engineer

As a double alumnus (BS'17, MBA'19 '19) and a current staff member at Rutgers, my commitment to this university spans nearly a decade. Currently serving as a software engineer, I see firsthand the critical role that technology and infrastructure play in the daily lives of our students, faculty, and staff.

I am running for the University Senate because I believe that shared governance is most effective when it includes diverse professional perspectives. My background in software engineering enables me to bridge the gap between complex technical requirements and the university's strategic goals. If elected, I aim to advocate for streamlined administrative processes, improved digital accessibility, and policies that support a forward-thinking, resilient workplace for all staff members.

Having navigated Rutgers as a student, an alumnus, and an employee, I am deeply invested in our university's success and would be honored to serve as a voice for my colleagues in New Brunswick. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Brian Cañares, GEAR UP Director, Office of the Provost

I would be honored to serve as your staff representative on the Rutgers University Senate. Before joining Rutgers, I spent a decade teaching middle school Social Studies, where I also served as the Vice President of my local teachers' union. Since then, I've transitioned from administrative coordinator to my current role as Director of GEAR UP, a federal grant that empowers New Brunswick Public School students to find their pathway to college.

In my time in K-12 and higher education, I've recognized that the indispensability of staff has remained a constant: it's universal. Although our contributions may be individually small, we are collectively integral to the large machine that is Rutgers. It is through the pragmatic execution of staff that the high ideals and goals of a university are realized and sustained.

This paradigm serves as the foundation of my candidacy; however, it lacks the nuances of your specific interests. It would be foolish for me to presume. Therefore, I write this not only to ask for your vote, but to also ask that you join me in the shared engagement of the civic process. Representing your needs must be

an agreed upon partnership. Only here can we truly ensure that this great public institution maximizes its benefit for all to prosper.

Charlie Collick, Director, Academic Technology & IT Accessibility

My journey at Rutgers, as a student (Livingston College '10, PSM '15), instructor (SCI), and IT leader, has provided me with a wide-ranging perspective and empathy for all those that contribute to our University community. My experience as a first-generation student and now, as an instructor, informs my understanding of both sides of the classroom: the barriers our students regularly encounter and the challenges our faculty face. As a 15-year Rutgers employee, I have led university-wide initiatives in digital accessibility and academic technology, strengthening my commitment to collaboration and shared governance. By launching forums such as the Academic Technology Advisory Council and the Digital Accessibility Network, I strive to foster inclusive dialogue and consensus, ensuring all voices in our community are heard.

Even still, I am always looking for new and powerful ways to connect people, share ideas, and facilitate collaboration to improve the Rutgers experience for all. There is no better venue for dialogue, consensus-building, and collective action than the University Senate. The University Senate embodies Rutgers's value of shared governance and aligns with my own convictions about its importance. My last three years as a Senator have shown me how collaborative discussion and principled action drive meaningful results for our community. I am committed to upholding these values; as your Senator, I will continue to advocate for all who make Rutgers a world-class place to learn, work, and grow.

Malica T Dock, IRB Assistant Reliance Director, Human Research Protection Program/IRB

As a current University Staff Senator, I have had the privilege of serving Rutgers staff while gaining meaningful insight into the University's governance structures and policy landscape. Throughout my first term I have taken on several leadership roles that reflect my commitment to advocacy accountability and equity. I have co-chaired the ABIDE Committee for the past two years to promote equity inclusion and transparency across the campuses. I also served on the Ad Hoc Committee on the Code of Conduct for Senate helping establish governance guidelines that support respectful and productive deliberation.

I authored nomination procedures for selecting a Senate representative to the Policy Approval Committee and worked with the Policy Committee to incorporate these procedures into the Senate Handbook. I have been collaborating on the Academic Freedom and Free Speech Series to facilitate campus-wide dialogue on academic expression and independence. Over these past years I have enjoyed learning from fellow Senators who are dedicated to strengthening our University community.

As part of the Office of Research my role in the Institutional Review Board (IRB) has strengthened my commitment to ethical research inclusive representation and fair accessible processes. As an IRB professional dedicated to supporting researchers and protecting participants I am committed to elevating diverse perspectives and promoting practices that improve quality of life.

I remain committed to serving as a voice for Rutgers staff. I respectfully ask for your vote to continue advocating for staff needs ideas and voices to remain central to the work of the University Senate.

Kelly Esposito, Senior Administrative Assistant – Center for Turfgrass Science and SEBS

I am interested in serving as a Rutgers University Senator because I believe staff voices are an essential part of the university's shared governance process. Staff members play a critical role in supporting Rutgers' academic, research, and service missions, and we bring valuable perspectives about how university policies and decisions affect daily operations across departments. It is important that those perspectives are represented when issues that impact our community are discussed.

Through my work at Rutgers, I have developed a strong appreciation for the dedication and expertise of our staff community. I would be proud to advocate for staff interests and help ensure that their concerns, ideas, and experiences are part of the broader conversation that informs university decision-making.

As a Senator, I would be committed to staying informed on the issues before the Senate, actively participating in committee work, and engaging with colleagues to understand their viewpoints. I also believe communication is key, and I would work to share Senate discussions and updates, so staff remain informed about important topics affecting the Rutgers community.

Serving on the Senate would be an opportunity to support collaboration, transparency, and meaningful staff representation while helping strengthen the Rutgers community.

Andre Granadeiro, Director | Institutional Planning & Operations - IT Department

With gratitude, I accept the nomination to serve on Staff Senate at Rutgers University. In my time with the university, I gained an understanding of its operations and sense of community. If elected, I will continue to promote sustainability, positive changes and work to be a bridge between staff, administration, and faculty. The ideals and concerns voiced by the staff at Rutgers University should be heard, pursued, and resolved. Given the chance to continue serving on the Staff Senate, I will represent my fellow staff with enthusiasm and dedication.

I understand the complexities of the University's staff mission and welcome service to the senate as an opportunity for the insight I will gain from participating in its proceedings, as well as the perspective I can contribute from my many years in support of a highly recognized institution such as Rutgers University. Helping to shape the policies that enhance the overall staff initiatives at Rutgers University would be an honor.

I have served on professional and charitable boards and association in the past. I am a strong contributor and a voice for the people or the cause I represent. Thank you for the opportunity and I look forward to working with you on making positive changes to our highly recognized institution such as Rutgers University.

Naj Junaid, Office of Information Technology, Application Administrator - IT Service Management Office

I have worked at Rutgers University for nearly a decade in the Office of Information Technology and previously attended as a student. In my current role, I support the implementation of service management, a framework that seeks to improve the way IT services are delivered and utilized throughout the university. As part of these efforts, I've led and served on multiple practice advisory groups focused on improving cross-institutional service delivery and collaboration.

During this time, I've engaged with teams across all Rutgers' campuses and seen the vibrant diversity of our fellow staff, as well as the breadth of our operational scope. I've also worked with faculty and student partners to understand the impact of university services and administrative processes on day-to-day work,

academic instruction, and learning. This has given me a robust understanding of how university policies and administrative decisions affect our work.

This year will be impactful for our institution, as many union agreements expire this summer. The Senate can play a robust role in fostering understanding across the institution during this period. As a senator, I will prioritize strong communication and equity across our campuses. I will also work to strengthen collaboration across our campuses so that staff expertise and perspectives are better shared across the institution.

I would be honored to represent my colleagues as a Staff Senator. I pledge to listen to staff concerns, encourage collaboration, and ensure staff perspectives are given due consideration in university decision-making.

Tiffany Nelson-McCullough, Administrative Coordinator – Department of Finance and Economics

With much thought and careful consideration, I tapped into what role I can play to help effect change or progress for my fellow Rutgers University community as it relates to the four functions of the senate body. Running for the University Senate, as an alum and a staff member, I can offer my critical thinking and insight into what can best benefit all parties without taking away people's respect, voice, and humanity. Rutgers University does not sit by itself, it is part of a larger community, and it encompasses many entities, for example we have the students, staff, faculty, alumni, stakeholders, the communities in which all campuses sit and more. The strength of Rutgers lies in its ability to move and adapt through time. Our job is having RU live beyond its 259 years and adjust with the times without sacrificing its core values of the institution and its people.

Thank you for your consideration. Long live Rutgers!!!

John Newhouse, Associate Director of Residence Life

I am honored to seek election as a staff representative on the Rutgers University Senate. For the past ten years, I have worked in Residence Life at Rutgers–New Brunswick, where I currently serve as Associate Director. In this role, I oversee residential communities supporting thousands of students and work closely with a large team of professional, graduate, and student staff who help create safe, inclusive, and engaging environments where students can thrive.

My work has given me a broad perspective on the student experience as well as the operational work that supports Rutgers' mission. I regularly collaborate with colleagues across the university, including, Student Affairs, Institutional Planning and Operations, and academic units to address complex challenges and support students as they pursue their educational journeys.

As a first-generation college graduate from an immigrant family, I understand firsthand how transformational access to higher education can be. That experience shaped who I am today and inspired my passion for working in higher education. I have a deep appreciation for the role Rutgers plays in expanding opportunity, advancing research, and serving the people of New Jersey.

I believe staff perspectives are critical in shaping policies that affect the daily work of our university community. If elected, I would approach this role by listening carefully to colleagues across the university and contributing thoughtfully to conversations that support Rutgers' continued growth and success.

Hina Rehman, Senior Program Coordinator for Online/Blended MSW Programs, School of Social Work

I have been fortunate to wear many different hats during my time at Rutgers. Over a span of almost 20 years, I received my bachelor's and master's degrees at Rutgers and am currently a doctoral student here as well; I have worked as a part-time employee across several units; I have served as a lecturer/instructor for multiple courses; and I currently work as a full-time staff member at the School of Social Work. During this time, I have witnessed Rutgers evolve, grow, and expand its local, national, and global impact, and I am proud to call myself a longstanding member of this remarkable community.

My background as a macro social worker and current doctoral student focusing on higher education has deepened my appreciation for the principles of shared governance, transparency, and thoughtful policy making. The University Senate embraces these values by creating a unique space for Rutgers constituents to be part of the decision-making process and advisory body at the university level. Rutgers has played a central role in shaping me into the person and professional I am today. As I continue my professional and academic journey here, I would welcome the opportunity to give back by serving in the University Senate. If selected, I would bring my longstanding institutional knowledge and experience, commitment to shared governance, and dedication to the university's continued growth to the Senate floor.

Michael Russell, Operating Engineer I, [IP&O Utilities]

With 11 years of experience as an Operating Engineer and four years serving as a Shop Steward, I offer a unique and essential perspective on the daily operations of Rutgers University-New Brunswick. I am running for the University Senate to ensure that the staff who keep this campus running—often behind the scenes—have a seat at the table.

My role as a steward has honed my ability to identify systemic issues and advocate for practical improvements. I understand the many challenges staff face, from safety concerns to professional development, and I know how to communicate them effectively to leadership. I am committed to using this seat to promote transparency and collaboration. I would be honored to represent my peers and contribute to a governance structure that values the essential contributions of every staff member.

Luke Sangiamo, Logistics Coordinator, Rutgers University Libraries Administrative & Technical Services

I am excited for the opportunity to serve on the University Senate as a New Brunswick staff representative! As a long-standing Rutgers staff member with over two decades of experience across multiple roles, I have developed a deep understanding of how our university operates and how collaborative leadership can advance institutional goals.

In my current position with University Libraries, I work closely with colleagues across Logistics, Operations, Access Services, and Facilities. Together, our teams partner with departments throughout the University to strengthen services, improve coordination, and support the evolving needs of students, faculty, and staff. Even through major challenges—such as the pandemic and ongoing fiscal constraints—we have remained committed to delivering effective, mission-driven outcomes.

My earlier Rutgers experience as a student and student employee continues to inform my perspective. At the Newark campus, my involvement in Student Government and Greek Life offered a firsthand view of student engagement and organizational leadership. Through the work-study program and my role with the

Office of Information Technology, I gained valuable insight into student services and campus operations. One of the most meaningful experiences of my undergraduate years was representing students on the University Senate, where I learned how each campus contributes to shaping shared policies and advancing University wide priorities.

If elected, I hope to bring this blend of experience, dedication, and institutional knowledge to the Senate—helping to uphold and strengthen the spirit of the Rutgers Edge by supporting scholarship, our students, and our community as best I can.

Robert Stewart, Retail Manager, Dining Services

I am running for the University Senate to advocate for the continued support and recognition of student service divisions, particularly Dining Services. During my five years at Rutgers, I have worked across many dining locations serving the New Brunswick, Livingston, Busch, and Cook campuses. This experience has given me a strong understanding of how vital dining operations are to the daily lives of students, staff, and the broader university community.

Dining Services plays an important role not only in providing meals but also in creating spaces for social interaction, community building, and promoting health and nutritional awareness. Our teams work hard every day to ensure students have safe and welcoming environments where they can gather, connect, and recharge.

As a member of the University Senate, I hope to bring forward ideas that strengthen support for student services and help ensure these perspectives remain part of university conversations that shape the student experience.

Thank you for your consideration.

Zoltan Szekely, Research Specialist, Molecular Design and Synthesis

My name is Zoltan Szekely. I serve as a Research Specialist in the Office for Research. Over the past 16 years at Rutgers, I have had the privilege of supporting researchers in developing clinical tools to combat cancer and many other diseases.

Through my daily work, I have developed a strong appreciation for the many individuals whose efforts sustain Rutgers' mission. As a Senator, I would strengthen communication between the different branches of Rutgers and the individuals who make up our community. I strongly believe that staff members can contribute more meaningfully to decision-making, both in long-term planning and in addressing practical issues that affect every day work and campus life.

I am also a strong advocate for public transportation. Our bus system should continue to improve so that it better serves both local and commuters and provides reliable and frequent service throughout the year.

For more than six years, I have managed the Community Garden on Livingston Campus, an experience that has been deeply rewarding. The garden provides plots for 20 families to grow healthy vegetables and fruits. Most of our members are Rutgers staff, representing 15 nations and speaking 10 languages. I also serve in the Parks and Garden Commission of New Brunswick, working to make our neighborhoods more family and pedestrian friendly.

In summary, I hope to strengthen staff representation and improve the infrastructure and everyday life of our community. I would be honored to represent my colleagues at the University Senate.

Susan Dunning Thomas, Contract Grant Assistant / Office for Research / Research Financial Services

I care deeply about making Rutgers a place where people feel welcome, included, and proud to be part of our community. As co-Chair of the Culture & Connection Committee in the Office for Research's Research Financial Services department, I work to create an environment where people feel they belong and where their identity and contributions are valued. It is a deep honor for me to be a steward of the community experience, and that commitment shapes how I show up in every part of my life.

That same commitment is why I'm running for the University Senate. I believe shared governance works best when the people who support Rutgers' mission every day have a seat at the table. In my role as a Contract Grant Assistant, I work with faculty, administrators, and departmental staff to set up sponsored projects accurately and in compliance so research teams can focus on their work. That experience has shown me the challenges people face and the opportunities Rutgers has to strengthen its systems, improve transparency, and better support the individuals who keep our research enterprise moving.

My job requires attention to detail, collaboration, and problem solving. I've seen how policy decisions shape research administration, faculty workload, and student opportunities, and I want to help craft policies that are practical, equitable, and grounded in real experience. Serving in the Senate would let me advocate for clearer processes, better communication, and a more inclusive approach to decision making that strengthens our community.

Brian Warzak, Instructional Technology Specialist/Office of Continuing Professional Education

My role as instructional technologist at the Office of Continuing Professional Education (OCPE) provides a valuable perspective on three major areas that will shape the university in the near and long term: new instructional tools that can either help or hinder student performance and raise questions of academic integrity; a micro credentialing program that enables nontraditional students to demonstrate their skills to potential employers in a difficult job market; and a robust continuing education department that runs hundreds of classes each year and serves a wide variety of learners. These areas need strong advocates in the senate, and I would be honored to help ensure they remain priorities for the university.

As higher education confronts the demographic cliff, continuing education programs will become more important than ever to ensure Rutgers thrives in the potentially lean years ahead. A part of Rutgers Cooperative Extension, tasked through our mission as New Jersey's land-grant university to bring our wealth of knowledge to local communities, OCPE provides opportunities for students to acquire saleable skills, obtain professional licenses, or pivot careers entirely. Our badging program strengthens and amplifies these opportunities, advertising not only to employers what skills students have attained, but also to potential students who could similarly benefit by enrolling in our courses. Most of these classes are online, and my role has allowed me to study which instructional tools work best in this paradigm and given me insight into the arms race between AI tools and proctoring software designed to thwart them.

Robert Wong, OIT - Enterprise Infrastructure and Service Delivery

I am seeking a seat on the University Senate to advocate for the continued growth of our faculty, staff, and students. I have navigated Rutgers as a New Brunswick student, serve all campuses as an IT professional, and remain a consistent user of our university facilities. These roles have provided me with a deep understanding of our operational strengths and the areas where we can further unlock our community's potential.

If elected, my priorities will be:

Strategic Alignment: Integrating IT expertise into administrative planning to streamline operations and reduce friction.

Infrastructure Excellence: Ensuring our digital landscape evolves to accommodate student and faculty needs.

Quality of Life: Investing in shared physical spaces to cultivate a vibrant, functional daily environment for everyone.

I would be honored to serve as your representative, working to build a more connected and responsive Rutgers.

NEWARK CAMPUS

Lucille (Lucy) Foster, Current Senate Chair

I am honored to seek re-election as a Staff Senator representing Rutgers–Newark. Serving in this role has been both a privilege and a responsibility, and I am grateful for the opportunity to advocate for the voices, perspectives, and contributions of our staff community.

During my current term, I have worked to ensure that staff perspectives are included in important university discussions, while supporting the principles of shared governance that strengthen Rutgers as an institution. Staff play a critical role in the daily life and success of the university, and I believe it is essential that our experiences, insights, and ideas help inform policies and decisions that affect our work and our campus community.

Rutgers–Newark thrives because of the dedication, professionalism, and commitment of its staff. I remain deeply committed to representing these interests thoughtfully and effectively by encouraging open dialogue, transparency, and collaboration across departments and campus units.

If re-elected, I will continue to prioritize communication and engagement with colleagues throughout the Rutgers–Newark community. I will work to ensure that staff concerns are heard that important information is shared, and that there are opportunities for meaningful participation in governance processes.

It has been an honor to serve in this role, and I would be grateful for the opportunity to continue representing Rutgers–Newark staff and contributing to the important work of the Senate for another term.

Gary Santos Mendoza, Ph.D., Director of the Intercultural Resource Center and adjunct faculty in the Honors Living-Learning Community at Rutgers University-Newark

Since joining the university in 2019, my commitment to our Newark community has only deepened. I am officially seeking re-election to the University Senate to continue advocating for the Newark constituents I have proudly served.

My tenure as the University Senate Student Affairs Co-Chair has been defined by tangible results. My team and I successfully advanced critical legislation, including expanding campus busing and library access. These collaborative wins demonstrate my ability to translate advocacy into policy. By seeking re-election, I aim to provide the continuity and institutional knowledge necessary to address the evolving needs of our staff, faculty, and students as we navigate generational shifts within the institution.

My intersectional identity as a Queer Latino, first-gen scholar-practitioner informs my approach toward the representation of minoritized populations. Working in Student Affairs has allowed me to support the development of our RU-N community; as your Senator, I remain dedicated to ensuring the Newark campus, with an “In Newark, Of Newark” mentality, remains a priority in university-wide decisions. Furthermore, my recent election as Vice President-Elect of Equity and Inclusion for ACPA–College Student Educators International has sharpened my ability to guide strategic planning and advocacy at large.

I possess the empirical experience and the passion to lead. I ask for your vote to continue this vital work, ensuring our university reaches its full potential through inclusive and proactive governance.

RBHS CAMPUS

Jonathan Paul Langowski, Director of Academic Affairs, School of Dental Medicine

As a dedicated member of the Rutgers University community, my decision to run for the University Senate stems from a deep commitment to fostering an inclusive, collaborative, and forward-thinking academic environment. With 25+ years of extensive experience in higher education, specifically in roles that emphasize diversity, academic success, and operational efficiency, I bring a unique perspective to the Senate. My work as the Director of Academic Affairs and my involvement in various pedagogical and diversity initiatives have honed my skills in leadership, strategic planning, and policy development.

I am particularly passionate about representing the diverse voices of our community, ensuring that all members have a platform to be heard and contribute to the University’s growth. My track record of enhancing student success, promoting inclusivity, and improving academic programs demonstrates my ability to drive meaningful change. As a Senate member, I aim to leverage this experience to advocate for policies and initiatives that support staff development, enrich student learning experiences, and enhance faculty resources.

Furthermore, my academic background and professional journey at Rutgers have ingrained in me a profound understanding of the challenges and opportunities within our institution. I am eager to collaborate with faculty, students, administrators, and alumni to address these challenges head-on, driving initiatives that align with our shared goals of academic excellence, community engagement, and institutional growth. Joining the University Senate represents an opportunity to contribute to Rutgers' legacy as a leading institution, and I am committed to working diligently towards our collective success.

Debra Pittman, MBA, Program Administrator- Office of Faculty Affairs

I am interested in running for University Senate because it provides an opportunity to contribute more broadly to the shared governance and strategic direction of the university. In my current role as Program Administrator in the Office of Faculty Affairs at Rutgers New Jersey Medical School, I work closely with faculty, staff and administrators across the institution and have developed a strong appreciation for the policies, processes, and decisions that shape the faculty experience and support the university's academic mission.

Our office is the main administrative support unit for 24 academic departments and more than 40 department-level administrators. We support over 2,000 paid and unpaid faculty members across five Basic Science and nineteen Clinical Science departments. Through this work, I regularly engage with matters related to faculty policy compliance, and operational processes as well as staff support and training needs. These responsibilities have given me a broad insight into the challenges and opportunities facing faculty and academic administration. I am especially interested in contributing to discussions that strengthen transparency, improve processes, and support policies that promote faculty, student and staff success and institutional effectiveness.

Serving on the University Senate would allow me to bring my operational knowledge, collaborative approach, and commitment to continuous improvement to a forum that plays an important role in shaping university policy and governance. I would love the opportunity to represent my colleagues and contribute to initiatives that support the academic community and move Rutgers's mission forward.

Sarah Scharf, DrPH, MPH, Executive Director, Cancer Health Equity Center of Excellence, Rutgers Cancer Institute

I am a proud Rutgers alumna of both Rutgers College and the School of Public Health, and for nearly 20 years, I have been honored to work at Rutgers advancing access to care, supporting community health initiatives, and building programs that truly make a difference in people's lives. Throughout my time here, I have been inspired by the creativity, dedication, and expertise of our staff, people who bring passion and commitment every single day to support students, faculty, and the broader university community. I am deeply committed to making sure staff voices are heard, valued, and included in decisions that shape our work and our institution. If elected to the University Senate, I will focus on fostering collaboration across departments, creating opportunities for professional growth, and supporting policies and programs that strengthen staff impact. I aim to serve as a bridge between staff and leadership, highlighting successes, identifying challenges, and sharing ideas that drive meaningful change. Serving on the University Senate is my chance to give back to the community and University that shaped me and to help ensure that staff perspectives guide the future of Rutgers. I bring energy, curiosity, and a collaborative spirit to this role, and I would be honored to contribute to decisions that strengthen our university and the people who make it thrive.

Thank you for your consideration.