

# NEIU Candidates

**Position:** NEIU Chapter President

**Candidate Name:** Nancy A. Matthews

Being your UPI Chapter President for the past three years has been an honor and a challenge! I am running for re-election and value your support. I'm excited to be running with a strong slate of candidates to lead our chapter. Let's work together to build the solidarity we will need as we enter contract negotiations. I continue to be committed to our union being a force for justice and equity on campus, of working for common good concerns, because we are all better able to support our students when we have stable and fair work conditions.

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**Position:** At-Large Teaching Professional/Resource Professional Representative

**Candidate Name:** Rachel Birmingham,

I am running for the at-large position of the executive board of UPI. I have served on this board for three years and am committed to representing fellow members, especially as we navigate these difficult times. It has been an honor to serve, and I ask for your vote to serve again.

In addition to serving as a representative to the executive board, and as a chapter delegate, I have been a practicing child advocate. As such, I work closely with those who serve youth in the K-12 system. I believe this work strongly relates to our teachers union at large, in addition to higher education. I am asking for your vote as a delegate to the Illinois Federation and American Federation of Teachers. My central aim is to see that the interests of teachers, from K-12 to higher Ed, are met; as we come with the common goal of serving those we teach.

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**Position:** College of Arts of Sciences Teaching Professional Representative

**Candidate Name:** Alex Peimer

Someone recently told me that racism is like a moving sidewalk. Unless you are moving in the opposite direction, you are supporting an oppressive system. I believe that this metaphor extends to the power struggle over labor rights and injustice more broadly. I am eager to participate in a leadership role in the Union because I feel that it's time that I start moving – even just walking – in the opposite direction. I believe that if we all start to move against the sidewalk, at our own pace (because let's be honest, we're being pulled in dozens of directions), we'll be a stronger Union. Beyond strengthening our campus presence, I am interested in exploring ways that our Union can become more involved in and supportive of City-wide labor and justice disputes, including learning from and organizing with the Chicago Teachers Union.

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**Position:** Secretary

**Candidate Name:** Sunni Ali

As a union member and colleague, I promise to execute the services rendered to perform an admirable job fulfilling the secretary's official duties. In this spirit, I will participate in the necessary sessions that seek out a fair contract that supports all members and report important notes to union participants to make our body aware of the happenings such as negotiations and progress achieved. I appreciate your support and trust in performing this duty responsibly and efficiently.

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**Position:** College of Arts and Sciences Instructor Representative

**Candidate Name:** Lydia Snow

"How do we change the attitude and beliefs instilled in our chapter and how do we change the culture to promote activism and involvement?" I believe we will reinvigorate UPI 4100 in a radical and transformative fashion if we publicly advocate for contingent faculty at Northeastern and within our broader union chapter. Our working conditions are our student's learning conditions. Instructors are committed to our students, our university and yet our union needs to stand with us before we can stand up and fight with them. I look forward to bringing these members into the conversation and to build better protections for them in the contract, as well as creating a union fund to help instructors when they lose classes, lose

their health insurance, or other difficulties that require assistance: emergency funds that come directly out of our union dues.

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**Position:** Vice President  
**Candidate Name:** Mary Thill

I am running for Vice President of NEIU UPI because I want to do my part to uplift our membership during a challenging time. In the next three years, we will need the wisdom of our collective to help us recover from a global pandemic, reverse declining enrollments, negotiate a fair contract, and achieve greater equity and protection for all of our members. I have been an active member of UPI since 2009, volunteering at a variety of events before becoming the constituency representative for the Library, and more recently, the Acting Treasurer. As Vice President, I would like to work on involving and empowering greater numbers of members in charting the future of NEIU.

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**Position:** At-Large Instructor Representative  
**Candidate Name:** Tom Campbell

My name is Tom Campbell and I am running for one of the two Instructor Representative at Large positions on the NEIU UPI Executive Board. I have been an Instructor of Biology with NEIU for the past 11 years. We've been through a lot in recent years as a University, and I am concerned for the overall health and future of our students, staff, institution, and faculty- including Instructors! I believe Instructors are a valuable and sometimes (often) undervalued resource to the university. If elected, I would serve to faithfully listen to Instructor voices and concerns and represent us to the best of my ability to the Board. I will be an advocate for NEIU Instructors and our cause. Thank you.

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**Position:** North Campus Academic Support Professional Representative  
**Candidate Name:** William Escalante

I am grateful for the nomination and opportunity to continue to serve as your ASP Constituency Representative for another term. Over the past 3 years, I have worked hard to ensure that the voices of Academic Support Professionals were heard by the executive board, that our needs were considered when decisions were being made, and that ASPs received union representation when the need arose. If you feel that I have done an effective job as your "ASP rep," I would appreciate your vote and welcome the opportunity to represent you for another term. Thank you.

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**Position:** Treasurer  
**Candidate Name:** Nikolas Hoel

I am asking for your vote to be the NEIU Chapter Treasurer. It has been a pleasure to serve as the Chapter Vice President for NEIU, and I wish to draw on that experience as I seek new opportunities and challenges as Treasurer. In the role, I look to provide support for the incoming President and Vice President, while continuing with my goals of improving conditions for instructors and of building unity between all groups represented by UPI.

I also would like to be one of your delegates to the IFT and AFT conventions. I realize that the majority of IFT members are involved with PK-12 education, and I want to work with the Local Executive Board to highlight the concerns of higher education on the IFT and AFT levels. Thank you for your consideration.

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**Position:** College of Education Instructor Representative  
**Candidate Name:** Karen Appel-Drazin

Union membership and the support from the union is very important to me. We need this type of united strength to assure us of our safety, opportunities, and rights. As the College of Education Instructor Representative, I want to make sure all instructors in the COE are kept informed about their conditions of employment with the university. Instructors are an important membership group but frequently lack up to date, relevant information. I plan to provide periodic, current updates to all instructors in the College of Education and share our point of view with the Executive Board. As the COE Instructor Representative, I will work to ensure instructors needs and concerns are recognized.

