

# WORK ENVIRONMENT COUNCIL

## AWARDS CEREMONY 2021 COMMEMORATIVE JOURNAL



HONORING THE HEROES OF COVID-19

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JUNE 16, 2021 | 7 PM

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New Jersey

**Work Environment Council**

Safe, secure jobs and a healthy, sustainable environment

172 West State Street, Second Floor

Trenton, NJ 08608-1104

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E-Fax (1-609) 482-4646

[www.njwec.org](http://www.njwec.org)

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](http://njwec.org).**



## Ellie Barbarash

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**

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.



## Wind of Spirit Training Team

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).

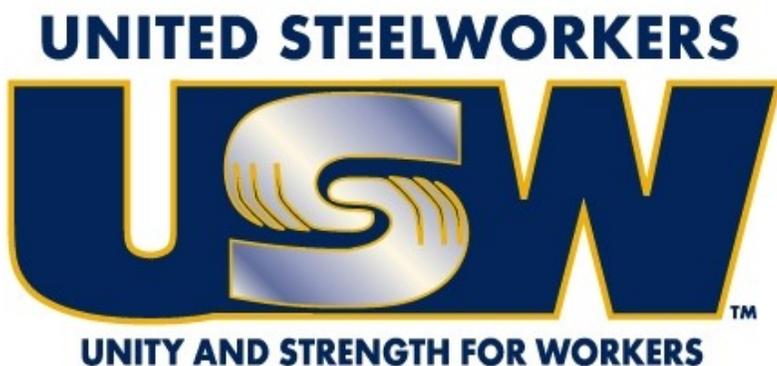
Nikki, who is the mother of three children, has spent much of her career advocating for better conditions for herself and PEA's members, and connecting her union's issues to issues of social justice in her community. As ESP Chairperson, Nikki initiated an anti-privatization campaign to save ESP member 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](http://www.USW.org)

**Michael Fisher, Sub-District Director**

2025 Lincoln Highway, Suite 130, Edison, NJ 08817

(732) 287-4011  [www.USW.org](http://www.USW.org)



Honoring **Nikki Baker**  
(2021 Adrienne Markowitz  
Rising Star Award) &  
all of the other the  
2021 award winners



Pictured l-r: **Sean M. Spiller** (Vice President), **Marie Blistan**  
(President), & **Steve Beatty** (Secretary-Treasurer)

Not pictured: **Steve Swetsky** (Executive Director)  
& **Kevin Kelleher** (Deputy Executive Director).

The 200,000 members of the  
**New Jersey Education Association**

congratulate the honorees of the

**2021 NJ Work  
Environment  
Council Awards**



**HPAE. Putting care first.**

# **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.**



**HPAE OFFICERS**

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**Barbara Rosen**  
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**Alexis Rean-Walker**  
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ALLIED EMPLOYEES**  
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110 Kinderkamack Road  
Emerson, NJ 07630

Tel. 201.262.5005  
Fax. 201.262.4335  
[www.hpae.org](http://www.hpae.org)



**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

*A Union of Professionals*



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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**



CHARGEVC | NJ

Congratulations to the front line leaders who continue to keep New Jersey healthy, clean, and prosperous:

Ellie Barbarash

Debbie Berkowitz

Todd Vachon

Protect NJ Workers Coalition

Wind of the Spirit Training Team

and Rising Star, Nikki Baker

COMMUNICATIONS WORKERS OF AMERICA, DISTRICT 1

SALUTES

NEW JERSEY WORK ENVIRONMENT COUNCIL & ALL OF TONIGHT'S HONOREES!

Ellie Barbarash, Health Professionals and Allied Employees (HPAE)

Debbie Berkowitz, National Employment Law Project (NELP)

Todd Vachon, PhD, Rutgers University's School of Management and Labor Relations (SMLR)

Nikki Baker, Paterson Education Association

Protect NJ Workers Coalition

Wind of the Spirit Training Team



<b>CWA</b>	<b>DENNIS G. TRAINOR</b> Vice President CWA District 1	<b>FRANCELINE EHRET</b> Area Director CWA District 1
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EARTHJUSTICE

BECAUSE THE EARTH NEEDS A GOOD LAWYER

PROUD TO COLLABORATE WITH NEW JERSEY WORK ENVIRONMENT COUNCIL

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

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



LOCAL 877

- |                                 |                                 |                                   |
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AND ALL THE MEMBERS OF TEAMSTERS LOCAL 877

# UNION STRONG



**International Federation of  
Professional & Technical  
Engineers, AFL-CIO**

**Barry Kushnir  
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**Paula Ritchey  
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**PO Box 790, Milltown, NJ 08850  
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Email: [local194@verizon.net](mailto:local194@verizon.net)  
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[www.local194.org](http://www.local194.org)**



## CONGRATULATIONS!

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

**NIKKI BAKER**

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



Alberto Arroyo, Int'l V.P. / Co-Manager  
Megan Chambers, Co-Manager  
701-703 McCarter Hwy, Newark, NJ. 07102  
(973) 735-6464

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TO ALL  
OUR SPONSORS**





**BLUEGREEN  
ALLIANCE**



# **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](http://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.*

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Montclair, NJ 07042  
Phone: 973-744-3005

#### **National Office:**

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Washington DC, 20005  
Phone: 202-895-0420

**Email:** [njcwa@cleanwater.org](mailto:njcwa@cleanwater.org) | **Web:** [www.cleanwater.org/nj](http://www.cleanwater.org/nj)  
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**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.*

**Officers**

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Craig Ford, Secretary-Treasurer  
Grisel M. Anton, Vice President  
Phyllis Shivers, Vice President*



9-25 Alling Street – 3rd Floor  
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(973) 624-1199 – (973) 622-0801 Fax  
[www.district1199j.org](http://www.district1199j.org)

# Congratulations

## 2021 WEC Honorees

*With admiration and  
thanks for WEC's work.*

The Rev. Fletcher Harper  
Executive Director



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



LABOR NETWORK FOR SUSTAINABILITY  
MAKING A LIVING ON A LIVING PLANET

[labor4sustainability.org](http://labor4sustainability.org)



## **Announcing: Workshops for Parents are Available Now!**



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\*\*](mailto:parentconferences1@gmail.com)



**THANK  
YOU,  
NJWEC  
AND  
HONORED  
HEROES!**



**FROM YOUR  
FRIENDS AT  
NATIONAL COSH!**



[WWW.NATIONALCOSH.ORG](http://WWW.NATIONALCOSH.ORG)

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**¡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!**



**NEW JERSEY CITIZEN ACTION**

**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](http://www.njcitizenaction.org)

# Ocean Wind – Leading the way to New Jersey’s clean energy future

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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.

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All other times by appointment

Closed major holidays; open Labor Day

**Directions:** Please visit [www.labormuseum.net](http://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*

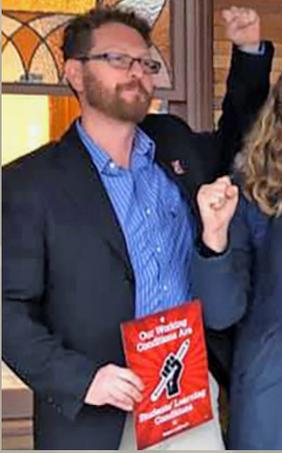
*Rising Star Awardee:*

**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.



# CONGRATULATIONS

TO ALL WEC HONOREES



*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](http://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***

**BARRY COMMONER CENTER  
for Health & the Environment**

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**Main Office  
67 Scotch Road  
Ewing, NJ 08628  
(609) 434-1032**

**Sussex County Office  
61 Spring Street  
Newton, NJ 07560  
(973) 579-7539**

# **CONGRATULATIONS**

to

**All of the Honorees and  
Award Recipients**

at the

**Work Environment Council's  
2021 Awards Ceremony**

WWW.CWA1037.ORG ~ #CWA1037 ~ @CWA1037

973-623-1828 ~ INFO@CWA1037.ORG

1037 RAYMOND BLVD, STE 520, NEWARK, NJ 07102



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# **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

**RUTGERS RUTGERS**

Center for Environmental  
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Health Sciences Institute | EOHSI

**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/>

**International Chemical Workers Union Council/UFCW**



**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**

---

## **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 THE HONOREES!**

- ◆ **Ellie Barbarash**, Education/H&S Coordinator, Health Professionals and Allied Employees
  - ◆ **Debbie Berkowitz**, Worker H&S Program Director, National Employment Law Project
  - ◆ **Todd Vachon**, Faculty Coordinator, Rutgers LEARN
  - ◆ **Protect NJ Workers Coalition**
  - ◆ **Wind of the Spirit Training Team**
- Adrienne Markowitz Rising Star Awardee:*
- ◆ **Nikki Baker**, Instructional Aid, Paterson, Educational Support Professional Chair, Paterson Education Association

## **LEARN** LABOR EDUCATION ACTION RESEARCH NETWORK



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**Phone:** 848-932-9504

**Fax:** 732-932-8677

**Mailing Address:**

50 Labor Center Way

New Brunswick, NJ 08901

**Website:** [www.smlr.rutgers.edu](http://www.smlr.rutgers.edu)

# RUTGERS

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and Labor Relations



## **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!

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*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*

---



**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!



**TONY MAZZOCCHI**  
CENTER



**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).

# Solidarity Forever!

**Bennet D. Zurofsky**  
Attorney at Law  
161 Walnut Street  
Montclair, New Jersey 07042  
Phone: 973-642-0885  
Fax: 973-642-0946  
E-mail: [bzurofsky@zurofskylaw.com](mailto:bzurofsky@zurofskylaw.com)  
Website: [www.zurofskylaw.com](http://www.zurofskylaw.com)



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since 1979

**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 WEC  
Award Winners**

for your leadership,  
collaboration and fighting  
spirit during COVID-19

*Jim Young  
and  
Louisa Hackett*

**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**



THE CENTER FOR CONSTRUCTION  
RESEARCH AND TRAINING



***Congratulations  
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*



**New Brunswick Education Association**  
83 Morris Street New Brunswick, New Jersey 08901

**The New Brunswick Education Association**

**Congratulates**

**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***

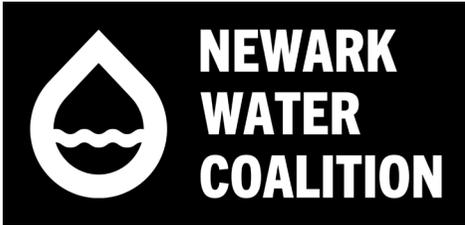


***Congratulations,  
2021 WEC  
Honorees***

**The Rev. James Bailey**  
*President,*  
**Newark Baptist  
Ministers Conference**

Ph. (973) 610-7273

Email: revjames1212@aol.com



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  
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## NJPSA Proudly Congratulates

- ★ Nikki Baker
- ★ Ellie Barbarash
- ★ Debbie Berkowitz
- ★ Todd Vachon
- ★ Protect NJ Workers Coalition
- ★ Wind of the Spirit
- ★ The Work Environment Council

for their outstanding work during  
the COVID-19 public health crisis

[www.njpsa.org](http://www.njpsa.org)



[www.paterson-education.org](http://www.paterson-education.org)

## Congratulations

### Nikki Baker

Graduating Every  
Paterson Child



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!



## Honorees & Rising Stars

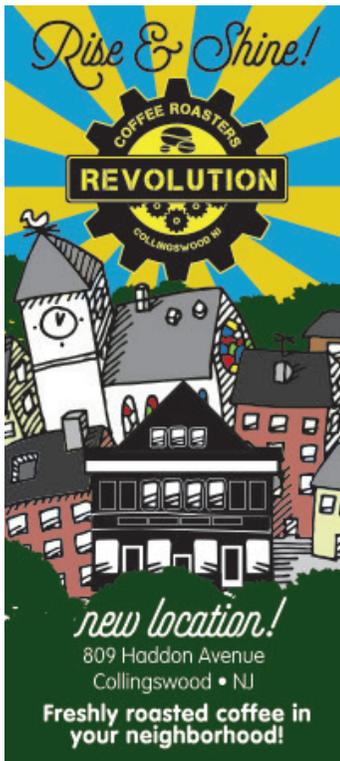
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THANKS  
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We're proud to partner with you on the journey to clean energy equity and a just transition for New Jersey!



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[VoteSolar.org](https://VoteSolar.org)

## Do you know about NJ Work Environment Council Trainings?

WEC offers FREE quality, interactive training using the participatory methodology that encourages problem-solving and critical thinking to address health and safety issues in the workplace.

### 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 [cgilliganletto@njwec.org](mailto:cgilliganletto@njwec.org) or Walter Diaz at [wdiaz@njwec.org](mailto: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**

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**Melissa Tomlinson**

**Michael Merrill**

**Michele Ochsner**

**Osorio Lamb Family**

**Patricia Stanley**

**Tom Hutchison**



## NEW JERSEY WORK ENVIRONMENT COUNCIL PAST HONOREES 2001 – 2020

### Individuals

Bonnie Anderson  
Ana Baptista  
Marie Blistan  
Assm. Tim Eustace  
Patricia Bauman  
Bob Beck  
Beatrice Bernzot  
Valorie Caffee  
Rev. Dr. Charles F. Boyer  
Noel Christmas  
Gov. Jon Corzine  
Diana Crowder  
Michelle DePass  
Deborah Ehling  
Rick Engler  
Dan Fatton  
David Foster  
Colandus "Kelly" Francis  
Leo Gerard  
Bernie Gerard, Jr.  
George Geist  
Amy Goldsmith  
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Luke Gordon  
Michael Gordon  
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Thomas Hardy  
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Edward Lloyd  
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Brandon McKoy  
Analilia Mejia  
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Doug O'Malley  
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Jeff Tittel  
Rev. Ronald Tuff  
Sen. Shirley Turner  
Ann Twomey  
David Tykulsker  
Sen. Loretta Weinberg  
Jim Young  
Bennet Zurofsky

### 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](http://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

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