



March 31, 2025

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**

**The New York State Conference of the American Association of University Professors (NYSC AAUP) announces the 2025 winner of the Francis Higman Award for Service to AAUP Collective Bargaining Chapters in New York State**

The **Francis (“Frank”) Higman Award for Service to AAUP Collective Bargaining Chapters in New York State** is an award that honors a person who is exemplary in, “advancing academic freedom or shared governance; promoting the economic security of academics; helping the higher education community organize; ensuring higher education’s contribution to the higher good.” The award is named for **Frank Higman**, a longtime member of the AAUP and a founding member of the Niagara University Lay Teachers Association, a collective bargaining chapter of the AAUP. Higman served as NULTA’s President and chief negotiator for over two decades from 1975 to 1998.

**The New York State Conference of the AAUP has chosen Dr. Nancy Romer of the Professional Staff Congress-CUNY, to be the 2025 Winner of the Higman Award.**

Nancy Romer, PhD, is a passionate and effective activist. Not only is she a committed labor rights activist, but she also works on food justice, feminism, and environmental justice. A professor of psychology at City University of New York’s Brooklyn College, Dr. Romer joined the Executive Council of the PSC-CUNY in 2023. Her comrades at the Professional Staff Congress note her outstanding work as co-chair of the PSC’s Environmental Justice Working Group (EJWG). Under Dr. Romer’s leadership, the PSC has emerged as a leader in the struggle for environmental justice and decarbonization within the New York labor movement. She has consistently built powerful, winning coalitions, partnering with labor siblings and community organizations to achieve divestment. Thanks to Romer’s efforts, the EJWG helped initiate a now-permanent Climate and Environmental Justice Caucus of the American Federation of Teachers.

Nancy Romer connects urgent local needs with a broader vision for a green, democratic power system. Just as significant as her vision and politics are the tactics Romer uses to fight for them. She is a visionary and committed organizer who works tirelessly to empower and build solidarity with others.

In the words of her comrades: “Nancy is a selfless organizer. Her work is for others.” In this, **we are proud to name Dr. Nancy Romer the recipient of the 2025 Higman Award.**

**For contact:**

**Mary Rose Kubal**, NYSC AAUP President, [mrkubalaaup@gmail.com](mailto:mrkubalaaup@gmail.com)

**Sally Dear-Healey**, NYSC AAUP Executive Director, [sdearhealeyaaup@gmail.com](mailto:sdearhealeyaaup@gmail.com)

**Tanya Loughead**, NYSC AAUP Communication Director, [tanya.loughead@gmail.com](mailto:tanya.loughead@gmail.com)

*About the AAUP:*

The American Association of University Professors (AAUP), with over 50,000 members and 500 local chapters, champions academic freedom; advances shared governance; and organizes to promote economic security for all academic professionals. Since 1915, the AAUP has shaped American higher education by developing standards and procedures that uphold quality education.