



February 25, 2020

Greetings Brothers and Sisters!

We are pleased to introduce you to a new **United Association Free College Benefit** that is being offered as an additional benefit to our members and their families. As you know, The United Association has always supported and prioritized education for our members and has strongly advocated for promoting affordable tuition for working families.

Today we are introducing our members and their families to a way to work toward obtaining a college degree for **free!** We have partnered with Eastern Gateway Community College to offer you this great opportunity. Eastern Gateway Community College is a public, non-profit, regionally accredited school that offers UA members and their families a path toward obtaining an Associate degree.

All course work is done online, and there is no out-of-pocket cost to you for tuition, fees or books. Through our partners at Union Plus, the **United Association Free College Benefit** combines PELL or other federal grants with employer reimbursement, then covers any remaining costs for your tuition, fees and online books. All students must complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA), but even if you are not eligible for any federal or employer grants, there is absolutely no cost to you, the member, and you will never be asked to take out any loans. Perhaps best of all is that the **United Association Free College Benefit** is available to you, your spouse, your children, grandchildren, stepchildren, step grandchildren, parents, siblings, sons and daughters-in-law, as well as other financial dependents.

Over half of all college students choose community college to begin their higher education. The courses offered are regionally accredited and transferable, and the college will work with your Institution to ensure that any previous college work or relevant work or military experience counts toward your degree.

A very important aspect of this benefit is the support you will receive. When you call, you will be assigned a staff member who will guide you through the process of applying and assist you in signing up for your courses. Everyone at Eastern Gateway Community College is focused on helping UA members achieve their personal education goals on their schedule..and at their own pace.

I urge you to take advantage of this exciting new benefit. Call the **UA Free College Hotline** at 888-590-9009 or log on to www.UnionPlusFreeCollege.org to find out more.

Fraternally yours,

Bryan K. Edwards
Business Manager