

MASSACHUSETTS SOCIETY OF PROFESSORS ANNOUNCES \$5,000 DONATION

April 15, 2020, The Massachusetts Society of Professors has announced a \$5,000 donation to be split equally between the **UMass Student Care and Emergency Response Fund (SCERF)** and the **Western Massachusetts Area Labor Federation (WMALF) Feed the Front Lines** program.

With the arrival and spread of COVID-19, the Massachusetts Society of Professors (MSP), the union for UMass Amherst's faculty and librarians, has made substantial changes to its daily operations. Although the MSP continues to lobby for the professional rights of our members, our advocacy now happens through virtual platforms as we, like many others, have moved to a stay-at-home work model.

This transition to a remote work model has also freed funds currently encumbered for professional development activities for officers and staff. On April 15, the MSP governing board voted to unencumber this money and redirect \$5,000 of it to two local relief efforts.

- The UMass Student Care and Emergency Response Fund (SCERF) has been created by the university to provide support for our students. This SCERF will help students with food and housing, medical and basic health needs, childcare, being an international student (such as visas and travel to get back home), caring for a disabled or sick parent, and technology needed for online learning. More information about this fund is available here:

https://minutefund.umass.edu/project/20457?_ga=2.194617389.1849094293.1585438154-1251863446.1585438154

- The Feed the Front Lines program has been organized by the Western Mass Area Labor Federation. Donations to this program will go directly to purchasing meals from local restaurants to be delivered to workers on the frontlines in hospitals, nursing homes, group homes, and more. More information about this fund is available here:

<https://feedthefrontlinewm.com/>

The MSP will split our donation equally between these two funds. "Although this is not a situation that we anticipated or wanted, I am thrilled that our organization can provide some modest help to our most vulnerable populations, both on and off campus," says MSP President Eve Weinbaum.