



*UVM's  
Faculty Union*

**Are you a member of a union in Vermont?**

**Do you have college student in your family  
who is working for social justice?**

**UNITED ACADEMICS ANNOUNCES  
THE NINTH ANNUAL LINDA BACKUS  
MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP OF \$1,000**

**LINDA BACKUS MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP**

The Linda Backus Memorial Scholarship of \$1000 is presented to an undergraduate student for outstanding community service, especially in pursuit of social or economic justice. The scholarship is named in honor of Linda Backus, former UVM professor of education, committed union organizer, and second president of United Academics.

To access the application form, please visit:

[UA Scholarship Application](#)

Application deadline is **April 15<sup>th</sup>, 2022**.

Recipient will be announced by **May 1<sup>st</sup>, 2022**.

To be eligible, applicant must have:

- completed two years at a higher education institution (not necessarily in Vermont), and
- an immediate family member—parent, step-parent, guardian, sibling, stepsibling—who is a member of any union in Vermont.

To apply for the Backus Scholarship, applicant must submit:

- an essay (no more than 750 words) that describes involvement in community service, especially as related to social and/or economic justice causes;
- documentation of immediate family member's union affiliation in Vermont (such as a photocopy or scan of a union card);

- a recommendation letter from a faculty or community member who is familiar with applicant's involvement with social and/or economic justice activities.
- copy of transcript (Your "Official Transcript" can be obtained through your MyUVM account under the "Registrar" tab. Please send it to yourself and submit with your application.

*Note: All UVM students who apply for the Backus Scholarship will automatically be considered for a Jeffrey Brace Scholarship.*

### **About LINDA BACKUS: SPECIAL EDUCATOR, ADVOCATE, ORGANIZER**

*Linda Backus had a distinguished career as a special education teacher, administrator, consultant, and scholar. She began her teaching career at the Spring Grove (PA) Area High School, continuing her pedagogic journey at the Pathway School for children with behavior disorders in Norristown where she found her true calling in the field of special education. She moved to Herkimer County, New York where she created treatment programs for individuals with developmental disabilities and helped to establish the New York State Association of Community Residence Directors. Following graduate studies in special education, she became a professor in the Community and Preventative Medicine Department at New York Medical College.*

*In 1994, she joined the faculty of the University of Vermont and served as a project associate at the UVM Center on Disability. She was a primary organizer of the UVM faculty union, serving as its first vice president, then president, and was instrumental in the drafting of a constitution and the negotiations leading to its first contract. In 2004, the American Association of University Professors awarded her the Georgina Smith Award. She was active in the Ward V Neighborhood Planning Assembly and served on the boards of both United Professions of Vermont and the Champlain Valley Labor Council (AFL-CIO). At the First Congregational Church in Burlington she taught Sunday school and had chaired the church's mission committee. Her death, at the age of 54, ended the life of an individual who was deeply committed through her educational, labor, political, and religious activities to improving individual lives and the community at large.*