



memo:

TO: Delegates
DATE: January 9, 2006
RE: Enhanced PSTP Voucher Program for Fiscal Year 2006 - 2007

I am very pleased to announce an Enhanced PSTP Voucher Program for fiscal year 2006-2007 for PEF represented New York State and Roswell Park employees. This tuition support program is developed and administered by the PEF/New York State Joint Committee on Professional Development (PDC) utilizing contractually negotiated funds.

As detailed below, the PSTP Tuition Voucher program has been significantly enhanced for fiscal year 2006 - 2007 for courses that commence on or after April 1, 2006 and on or before March 31, 2007:

For undergraduate courses - Two vouchers (instead of one) may now be used for each course taken. The maximum value of each voucher continues to be \$600 and a maximum of six vouchers per participant are available during the fiscal year.

For graduate courses - Each graduate voucher now has a maximum value of \$1,200 (instead of \$600). Two vouchers may still be used per graduate course taken, and a maximum of six vouchers per participant are available during the fiscal year.

All other provisions of the existing PSTP Tuition Voucher Program will remain in effect for fiscal year 2006-07. Guidelines will be available through the Professional Development page of the PEF website (<http://www.pef.org/>) and on the GOER website (<http://www.goer.state.ny.us/train/pst>).

The PSTP Voucher Program has been the primary tuition support program for PEF represented employees in the PS&T Services Unit taking college courses since 1994 offering two vouchers per year. The PDC has enhanced the program during the 1999 - 2003 and 2003 - 2007 collective bargaining agreements to the current benefit of six vouchers per year. These new enhancements will provide a substantial increase in tuition support to the members who participate in this program and reflect our ongoing commitment to address members' professional development needs.

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Please distribute this information to all PEF members throughout your constituency. This information will also be posted on the PEF website and reported in *The Communicator*. I extend my appreciation to Executive Board Representative Patricia Smith, PEF Trustee Olubiyi Sehindemi (Mr. B) and Cliff Merchant, PEF Director of Human Resources and Education for their efforts to expand these benefits as part of the PDC. If you have any questions regarding the PSTP Voucher Program, please contact the PEF Education Department at extension 328 or visit the PEF website (www.pef.org).

Roger E. Benson

cc: PEF Department Directors
Field Offices