

“People might not get all they work for in this world, but they must certainly work for all they get.”  
- Frederick Douglass

# LABOR NEWS

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at DePaul  
& Eastman

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# Edison Student Wins New York State Masonry Championship

2009 Edison Applied Technology and "Get Ready for Life" program graduate, Luis Martell, was recognized in the February 2010 edition of *Masonry Magazine*, a publication of the Mason Contractors Association of America.

UNICON first met Martell last year, as a bright eyed, enthusiastic first year Masonry student under the teaching of Frank Arena. Luis had originally been enrolled in the Auto Technician program at Edison, but he quickly realized his passion for bricklaying after getting some hands-on experience in several of the featured trades.

Martell was one of 15 students chosen to participate in the UNICON/ Edison house building program, where his talent really flourished under the instruction of the Edison staff and building trades volunteers. After only a few months into the program, he was asked to compete in the New York State Skills USA Masonry Competition, where he ended up taking first place in both the written and demonstrative brick-and-block competitions. He was crowned the 2009 "Skills USA NYS Masonry Champion".

Martell graduated in May 2009, and has since enrolled at Alfred State University. UNICON would like to congratulate Luis for all of the dedication he has shown over the past year in the "Get Ready for Life" program and beyond. It is success stories like his that keep the legacy of Edison alive today.

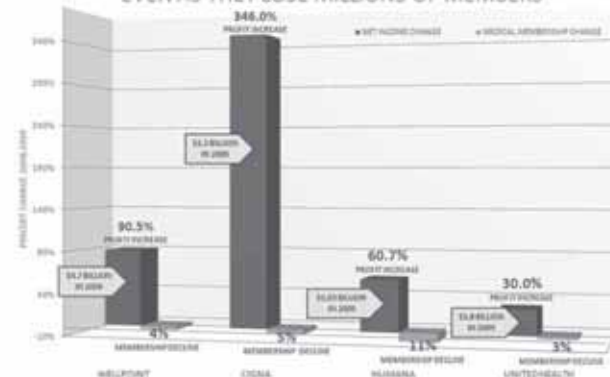


**Governor Paterson** kicked off his gubernatorial campaign at Laborers Local 435 hall on Saturday. Nearly 250 supporters packed the hall, with thanks for the governor's efforts to get the Midtown project underway topping the list of local labor accomplishments. Photo by Clarke Condé.



**Down at DePaul** Grant Seward and Curtis Monroe for BAC 3 and Mike Waver from Laborers Local 435 ready the floor. Photo by Clarke Condé.

## HEALTH INSURANCE INDUSTRY PROFITS SOAR EVEN AS THEY LOSE MILLIONS OF MEMBERS



## Record Profits Don't Stop Health Insurer's Record Rate Hikes

(AFL-CIO)- There's a theory that trends happen first in California before spreading to the rest of the nation. If that's true in health insurance, we're all in deep trouble.

Last week, Anthem Blue Cross-whose parent company WellPoint posted a record \$4.7 billion profit in 2009-announced it was gouging even more money from its 800,000 California customers by raising premiums as much as 39 percent.

Deborah Burger, RN, and co-president of the National Nurse United (NNU), says Anthem Blue Cross's "disgraceful behavior may be particularly offensive."

but it is not out of character for an industry engages systemically in price gouging and denial of care.



**Over at Eastman** Guy Debeck and Doug Wade from BAC Local 3 size up stone for the interior. Photo by Clarke Condé