

## MEDIA ADVISORY

November 9, 2012

### **SPECIAL TALK ON NEW YORK TAXI WORKERS ALLIANCE, “DRIVERS FOR JUSTICE IN THE GLOBAL CITY,” TO BE HELD ON NOVEMBER 14**

- WHAT:** Bhairavi Desai, a native of India and 1994 graduate from Rutgers University with a major in women's and gender studies, is the co-founder and executive director of the 15,000-member New York Taxi Workers Alliance (NYTWA), 60% of whom are South Asian. Desai will discuss issues of women in leadership, work and globalization in the 21st century, the impact of 9/11 on immigrant workers, and the use of ethnic networks to organize for change. For details, visit: <http://smlr.rutgers.edu/drivers-for-justice>
- WHY:** Through organizing, direct action, legal and health services, media presence, political advocacy and the cultivation of allies and supporters, NYTWA builds power for immigrant workforces in the city of New York. In 2012, NYTWA won a livable income raise, first-time regulations of taxi companies, and a Health and Disability Fund for drivers, the first for taxi drivers nationwide and one of the first for independent contractors. In 2011, NYTWA was chartered to build the National Taxi Workers Alliance, the 57th Union of the AFL-CIO. The NYTWA is the first charter for non-traditional workers since the farm workers in the 1960's and the first one ever of independent contractors. NYTWA has increased drivers' incomes by 35%-45%, secured over \$15 million in emergency aid to drivers, and provided pro bono or discounted legal, financial management, and health services to over 10,000 drivers and families.
- WHEN:** **Wednesday, November 14, 2012 at 7:00 p.m.**
- WHERE:** Rutgers Labor Education Center Auditorium  
50 Labor Center Way, New Brunswick, N.J.
- WHO:** This event is presented by Rutgers School of Management and Labor Relations' Department of Labor Studies and Employment Relations in partnership with the Rutgers' Center for Women and Work, Center on Women's Global Leadership, Institute for Women's Leadership, Sociology Department, Women and Gender Studies, Douglass Residential College, Department of Africana Studies, South Asian Studies Program, Institute for Research on Women, South Asian Studies Program, New Labor, RU Sangam, Manavi, Asian American Cultural Center, and School of Arts and Sciences Educational Opportunity Fund Program.
- Rutgers School of Management and Labor Relations is the leading source of expertise on the world of work, building effective and sustainable organizations, and the changing employment relationship. The school is comprised of two departments—one focused on all aspects of [strategic human resource management](#) and the other dedicated to the social science specialties related to [labor studies and employment relations](#). In addition, SMLR provides many continuing education and certificate programs taught by world-class researchers and expert practitioners. For more information, visit <http://smlr.rutgers.edu>
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