About the Labor Center

The Labor Center is a unit of the University of Iowa's Division of Continuing Education. Its mission is to provide educational programs and resources to Iowa workers and their unions.

The Labor Center offers courses for union members on The University of Iowa campus. Each year we conduct a series of open-enrollment, non-credit short courses and seminars—see inside for this year's calendar.

Or we can travel to your union hall or community to provide classes on a wide range of topics which can be tailored to the needs and priorities of your union.

We also provide research assistance and technical information to unions.

Labor Center Staff

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### Labor Center Staff

**Labor Educators**

Robin Clark-Bennett
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Matthew Glasson
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Jennifer Sherer
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**Support Staff**

Judy Thirtyacre, Secretary
Jennifer Ward, Program Assistant

**Individuals with disabilities are encouraged to attend all University of Iowa-sponsored events. If you are a person with a disability who requires an accommodation in order to participate, please contact the Labor Center in advance at (319) 335-4144. The University of Iowa is an equal opportunity employer and prohibits discrimination in employment or in its educational programs and activities.**

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**How Labor Center education programs strengthen unions...**

Today’s labor unions depend upon a leadership possessing information and insight into a wide spectrum of social, political, and economic issues. The Labor Center was created to address these needs and does so with the highest quality programs available in labor education.

Sandy Opstvedt  
President, IBEW Iowa State Conference

The Labor Center has provided training for Iowa’s Letter Carriers for well over 30 years. They’ve developed training that specifically deals with federal worker issues and it has helped our stewards become some of the finest in the nation. The Labor Center’s knowledge of the labor movement and their ability to convey that information to our membership has been invaluable.

Mike Birkett  
President, Iowa State Assn. of Letter Carriers

My appreciation for the Labor Center continues to grow. We are lucky in Iowa to have a Labor Center with instructors that understand, support, and educate Iowa’s union members. First as a local president, and later as a full-time staffer, I have always encouraged my locals to attend courses on campus and to arrange for courses off campus as well. The value of education balances the playing field for rank and file members.

Dale Jeter  
International Representative, GMP

The University of Iowa Labor Center has been instrumental in helping my membership understand a wide variety of currently relevant issues through their balanced and thorough program offerings. Labor Center presentations provide unique perspectives which stimulate honest and lively conversation and frequently result in energizing participants to become activists, or revitalizing veteran activists with renewed enthusiasm.

Kimberly Karol  
President, Iowa Postal Workers Union

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**Labor Advisory Committee**

The Labor Advisory Committee regularly meets with Center staff to plan and promote labor education in Iowa. Current members:

- Bill Biede, President, Southwest Iowa Labor Council, AFL-CIO
- Mike Birkett, President, Iowa State Association of Letter Carriers
- Bruce Clark, President, Dubuque Federation of Labor, AFL-CIO
- Greg Cross, International Representative, UE
- Jim Crotty, South Central Unions Director, IBEA
- Gary Dunham, Secretary-Treasurer, IJT Local 238
- Bill Gerhard, President, Iowa State Building & Construction Trades Council
- Cathy Glasson, President, SEIU Local 199
- Roger Grobstich, International Representative, RIFDSU
- John Herring, Business Representative, I-ME&I-AFL
- District 6
- Danny Homan, President, AFSCME Council 61
- Dale Jeter, International Representative, GMP
- Kimberly Karol, President, Iowa Postal Workers Union
- Jerry Kearns, Education Director, Lee County Labor Council, AFL-CIO
- Jan Laue, Secretary-Treasurer, Iowa Federation of Labor, AFL-CIO
- Tom Moritz, Staff Representative, UFCW Local 431
- Jane Nygaard, National Vice-President, District 8, AFGE
- Sandy Opstvedt, President, IBEW Iowa State Conference
- Ken Sagar, President, Iowa Federation of Labor, AFL-CIO
- Rick Scotfield, President, Iowa Professional Firefighters
- Midge Slater, International Representative, CWA (retired) and Iowa Alliance for Retired Americans
- Dennis Walker, President, Iowa UAW CAP Council
- Susan Washington, Assistant to the President, AFL-CIO

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**The University of Iowa Labor Center**

**Building the labor movement through education**

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Web: www.continuetolearn.uiowa.edu/laborctr
Courses for Union Members, 2009—2010
presented in cooperation with the Iowa Federation of Labor, AFL-CIO

Advanced Steward School .................................................. Oct. 22-23
Leadership and Administration Skills for Local Union Officers ...... Nov. 19-20
Financial Officers’ School .................................................. Dec. 17-18
Newsletters & Communications .......................................... Jan. 14-15
Collective Bargaining ......................................................... Jan. 20-22
Unions 101 for Spanish-Speaking Workers .................................. Feb. 4
Unions 101 for Young Workers ............................................. Feb. 5
Four-Part Legal Tools Series:
  ♦ ADA (Americans with Disabilities Act) .................................. Feb. 12
  ♦ FMLA (Family & Medical Leave Act) .................................. Feb. 18-19
  ♦ OSHA (Occupational Safety & Health Act) ......................... Mar. 12
  ♦ Workers’ Compensation in Iowa ....................................... Mar. 18-19

Labor Short Course ............................................................. May 10-14

Information and Registration for Courses on Campus
Courses held on campus feature instruction provided by Labor Center staff and university faculty as well as invited experts from the labor movement, the legal field, and relevant government agencies. Detailed fliers and registration forms for each program will be distributed to mail-receiving officers and posted on our web site prior to each program. Please register at least 30 days in advance.

For more information or to register, call 319-335-4144 or visit www.continuetolearn.uiowa.edu/laborctr. Standard per-person registration fees: One-day schools = $100, two-day schools= $150, three-day schools= $200, five-day schools=$300; four-part legal series package rate=$350. Lodging options will be available either on site or at nearby hotels (lodging/meals costs are not included in registration fees). English-Spanish interpretation is available for all programs with advance notice.

OPTION 1: Attend Classes at The University of Iowa

OPTION 2: Let the Labor Center Come to You

Host a Labor Center Class Customized for Your Union
Labor Center instructors are available to travel to your community to conduct programs at times and places convenient for your members. Call to discuss setting up a class for your local union: 319-335-4144.

Fees for Off-Campus Classes
Customized classes are offered to Iowa unions for a fee of $220 per day, plus the cost of materials. A reduced fee sliding scale is available to locals experiencing financial hardship. Call for information on out-of-state fees.

Central Labor Council Programs
Under a unique statewide education program, each Iowa Central Labor Council (CLC) is eligible to receive financial sponsorship from the Iowa Federation of Labor, AFL-CIO, to hold up to four Labor Center classes per year. Contact the Labor Center for details.

Spanish and Multilingual Programs
Classes may be delivered in multiple languages through simultaneous interpretation. Programming in Spanish is also available. Call for details.

Sample Class Topics
Topics listed below are examples of classes offered to Iowa unions on a regular basis. The Labor Center also offers classes on a wide range of other relevant topics by request, and can customize or combine topics to create a course to suit your local union. Give us a call to discuss the possibilities: 319-335-4144.

Arbitration
Building Solidarity
Building Trades Union Issues
Child Labor
Collective Bargaining
Common Sense Economics
Communication Skills & Strategies
Disability Issues and the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA)
Discrimination Issues in the Workplace
Drug and Alcohol Testing
Ergonomics
Family and Medical Leave Act (FMLA)
Health Care
Immigration
Internal Organizing: One-on-one communication, building membership, organizing around issues, etc.
International Trade and the Global Economy
Labor and Employment Law
Labor History
Mobilizing
New Member Education
Newsletters and Web Sites
Media Outreach
Organizing
Parliamentary Procedure
Political Action and Citizenship
Privacy Issues in the Workplace
Privatization, Outsourcing and Contracting Out
Public Sector Union Issues
Public Speaking
Safety and Health: OSHA and other legal rights, safety committees, etc.
Sexual Harassment in the Workplace
Steward Education: Legal rights and roles, grievance handling, organizing, etc.
Strategic Planning
Workers’ Compensation in Iowa
Young Workers/Emerging Leaders