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

Labor Educators
Robin Clark-Bennett
Matthew Glasson
Jennifer Sherer

Support Staff
Sarah Clark, Secretary
Angela Ward, Program Assistant

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 University of Iowa Labor Center has been educating Letter Carriers since 1955 and is still going strong today, educating future leaders of our Union. The Labor Center's knowledge of the labor movement and their ability to convey that information to our membership has been invaluable.

Mark Fallis
President, Iowa State Association of Letter Carriers (NALC)

CWA District 7 covers the northwest quadrant of the United States and western Canada. It is a credit to the excellent Labor Center staff that, by popular demand, CWA District 7’s annual Leadership conference is held in Iowa every year.

Kay Pence
International Representative, CWA

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.
Courses for Union Members, 2010 - 2011
presented in cooperation with the Iowa Federation of Labor, AFL-CIO

Public Sector Bargaining Issues ................................. Oct. 8-9
Immigration and Labor Rights: Harvesting Dignity in Midwestern Fields and Factories........................ Nov. 13
New Steward School.................................................. Dec. 3
Financial Officers’ School........................................... Dec. 16-17
Collective Bargaining .................................................. Jan. 19-21
Rights at Work: FMLA, ADA, and Workers’ Compensation .... March 9-11
Union Communications: High-Tech and Low-Tech Tools for Reaching Members ............................................ April 14-15
Labor Short Course ................................................... May 16-20

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/laborct. Standard per-person registration fees: One-day schools = $100, two-day schools = $150, three-day schools = $200, five-day schools = $300. Lodging options will be available either on site or at nearby hotels (lodging/meal 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. (*$250/day effective January 1, 2011)

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

Union Short Course - March 11, 2011