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.

We also 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.

Our staff can also provide research assistance and technical information to unions.

Labor Center Staff

Labor Educators
Robin Clark-Bennett
Matthew Glasson
Paul Iversen
Jennifer Sherer

Support Staff
Sarah Clark, Secretary
Angela Ward, Program Assistant

About the Labor Center

What participants are saying about our 2011-12 on-campus programs...

This course is a great foundation for educating and involving workers.

I am better prepared to take on more serious issues and educate other members on many important issues.

Comprehensive... well organized, lots of group participation, valuable material, motivated/animated instructors.

Presenters were very knowledgeable in their topics – they took the time to explain the reason for something and to address any questions or concerns from participants.

A lot of info from folks who clearly know the subject and are able to answer questions on the spot.

Labor Advisory Committee

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

Jim Beach, President, Iowa State Association of Letter Carriers (NALC)
Bill Biede, President, Southwest Iowa Labor Council, AFL-CIO
Bruce Clark, President, Iowa Postal Workers Union (APWU) and President, Dubuque Federation of Labor, AFL-CIO
Mark Cooper, President, South Central Iowa Federation of Labor, AFL-CIO
Greg Cross, International Representative, UE
Gary Dunham, Secretary-Treasurer, IBT Local 238
Bill Gerhard, President, Iowa State Building & Construction Trades Council
Bob Gilmore, Business Manager/Secretary-Treasurer, IUPAT District Council 81
Cathy Glasson, President, SEIU Local 199
Roger Grobstich, International Representative, RIFDSU
John Herrig, Business Representative, IAM&AW Dist. 6
Danny Homan, President, AFSCME Council 61
Jerry Kearnns, Staff Representative, SEIU, and Education Director, Lee County Labor Council, AFL-CIO
Coy Marquardt, East Central Uniserv Director, ISEA
Tom Moritz, Union Representative, UFCW Local 431, and Iowa Vice President, Quad City Federation of Labor, AFL-CIO
Jane Nygaard, National Vice-President, Dist. 8, AFGE
Sandy Opstvedt, , Asst. Director, IGREEN Learning Center
Shelley Parch, President, Hawkeye Labor Council, AFL-CIO
Kay Pence, International Representative, CWA
Ken Sagar, President, Iowa Federation of Labor, AFL-CIO
Brad Schwanda, International Representative, UAW, and Region 4 Education Coordinator
Rick Scofield, President, Iowa Professional Fire Fighters (IAFF)
Midge Slater, Iowa Alliance for Retired Americans
Charlie Wishman, Secretary-Treasurer, Iowa Federation of Labor, AFL-CIO

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, 2012-2013
presented in cooperation with the Iowa Federation of Labor, AFL-CIO

New Stewards’ School ............................................................... Sept. 27-28
Financial Officers’ School ....................................................... Nov. 29-30
Communications and Newsletters ............................................ Dec. 6-7
Collective Bargaining ................................................................. Jan. 23-25
Clearing New Paths to Justice:
Local Movements To Confront Inequality ................................ Feb. 9
Workers’ Compensation ............................................................ March 14-15
Family & Medical Leave Act (FMLA) ......................................... April 11-12
Labor Short Course ................................................................. May 13-17

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 information for each program will be distributed to mail-receiving officers and posted on our website prior to each program. Please register at least 21 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.

Lodging options will be available either on site or at nearby hotels (lodging/meal costs are not included in registration fees unless specifically noted). English-Spanish interpretation is available for all programs with advance notice.

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 $250 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

continual →