



# THE LABOR SCHOOL

AT PENN STATE



## PITTSBURGH LABOR ACTIVIST ACADEMY

- » **Location:** Classes will be held from 6:00-8:30 p.m. at **United Steelworkers** 60 Boulevard of the Allies, Pittsburgh, PA 15222 (\$5 Parking Available in Garage Below).
- » **Cost:** The cost for each three-week course will be \$75 per participant. (Total cost for all four courses is \$300).
- » Register and pay here [www.cvent.com/d/b6qs74](http://www.cvent.com/d/b6qs74)
- » Please see the course schedule and registration details on reverse.



The Allegheny-Fayette Central Labor Council, AFL-CIO, and The LABOR School at Penn State will host a series of labor education workshops designed to better equip labor union stewards, labor activists and leaders to meet the challenges facing today's labor movement.

All local unions and invited community allies are eligible to send members to participate.

The curriculum consists of four comprehensive non-credit courses designed to develop critical thinking skills and to increase capacity for building power. The courses encourage participation and networking with other activists.

Participants should commit to attending all three sessions of each course.

Instructors will include faculty from The LABOR School at Penn State, labor leaders and community experts. Participants who complete all four courses will graduate with a certificate of completion from Penn State.

*"I've been a union member for over 15 years and have learned so much in these classes. I now know how to answer workers' comp questions for my fellow shop members. The history section puts into perspective what has been fought for and what has been obtained by the union members before us. I would take this class again!"*

- Amy Gitler  
Chair, Chapter 13 SEIU 668

*"The labor movement has been under attack for decades and if we want to not only survive, but thrive, we need to educate our members. Engaging our members is key to transforming the union movement and these courses are designed to do just that. This is a well thought out curriculum with engaged instructors."*

- Dennis Hower  
President, Teamster Local 773

# COURSE SCHEDULE FOR 2019

## 1. Our Current Labor Landscape: Lessons for 21st Century Unions (May 7, 14, 21)

This course will focus on the challenges faced by labor organizations and workers today, how we got here, and the implications for building a more effective labor movement. We will gain an appreciation for the rich history of worker collective action and how labor organizations have related historically to broader struggles for economic, social and civil rights, offering a new perspective on the particular challenges of the current period. Participants will gain an understanding of how our economy has shifted and what this means for workers and our organizations going forward.

## 2. Building Power by Mobilizing our Members (September 10, 17, 24)

Renewing our movement begins with organizing our own members and learning how to engage them as active participants in the work of labor. How can we generate more member participation to build strong and sustainable organizations? This course will focus on the basic elements to more successfully engage and mobilize fellow members. We will share strategies and ideas to strengthen member commitment and activism.

## 3. Building Power through Effective Communication (October 8, 15, 22)

Member awareness and understanding of the values, mission, and successes of our organizations is a key component of building union power. If people don't know about the work we're doing, the organization has lost an opportunity to inspire and engage others to action. This course will focus on telling our union stories and improving individual communication; assessing how we communicate with members, including digital and social media; and sharing best practices to improve communication and member experience.

## 4. Bridging Division to Build a Stronger Labor Movement (November 12, 19, and December 3)

Unity among union members and across unions remains essential for a strong and successful labor movement. At the same time, we face all sorts of division—including interpersonal conflict, generational differences, and racial and gender divides to name a few. In this course, we will explore these differences as a source of strength and identify how to build an inclusive union culture. We will also discuss the critical role of bridging across divisions with other organizations to address the challenges workers face in the 21st century.

**\*All dates are Tuesdays from 6:00-8:30 p.m.**

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Registration fee is \$75 per course. After the first course starts, enrollment and payments are non-transferable.  
Missed sessions cannot be substituted in for another course.

**\*Please note there is a minimum number of participants required for each course.**

**Pre-registration and payment are required one week before the first session you are registered to attend.**

Please register here: [www.cvent.com/d/b6qs74](http://www.cvent.com/d/b6qs74)

Questions? Please contact Zachary Zobrist at [zxz320@psu.edu](mailto:zxz320@psu.edu) or (814) 865-5425

[ler.la.psu.edu/outreach/labor-school](http://ler.la.psu.edu/outreach/labor-school)

