

Labor Extension Bulletin

A Publication of the University of Massachusetts Labor Extension Program
UMASS AMHERST ■ UMASS BOSTON ■ UMASS DARTMOUTH ■ UMASS LOWELL

VOLUME 9 ■ NUMBER 1 ■ WINTER 2007

Does Deval Patrick spell “R-E-L-I-E-F?”

Massachusetts workers have suffered since William Weld took the reins as governor in 1991. Manufacturing jobs have all but disappeared, well-paid public sector jobs have shrunk, and real income has declined. Certainly, not all the blame can be laid at the door of the corner office—much of it was due to larger forces beyond the control of state government. But the last four governors have certainly played a big part with their anti-worker policies.

Does Deval Patrick spell “R-E-L-I-E-F” for working families? We think there is cause for optimism.

First of all, economic development and job growth was one of the key themes of Patrick’s campaign. Too often, “economic development” means that corporations get big tax breaks and do not provide the new jobs they promise. Patrick, however, has appointed MA AFL-CIO President Bob Haynes to his Transition Working Group on Economic Development. We think the appointment is a good sign—we can be sure Patrick will hear the working people’s side of the discussion.

Second, Patrick has followed through on his campaign commitment to involve grassroots voices as he forms his new administration. His Transition Working Groups held about 60 public events in December to let Mass residents weigh in on policy matters.

On the other hand, we cannot sit back and wait for Patrick to save us. While he appointed Haynes, as well as IBEW Local 1505 Business Manager George Noel and UWUA Local 369 President Gary Sullivan to his Working Groups, he appointed many times more CEOs. As usual, it will be up to working people—organized labor and community organizations—to make our voices heard.

In this context, we would like to highlight a few examples around the state of labor and communities working together to push a pro-working class development agenda.

- In greater Boston, Community Labor United, a coalition of unions and community organizations with close ties to the Greater Boston Labor Council, has spearheaded several campaigns to bring good jobs to community residents. Their brand new report, “The Hourglass Economy,” challenges eastern Massachusetts to expand the middle of the “hourglass” by creating thousands of new, well-paying, permanent jobs. The 67-page report can be downloaded from CLU’s website, www.massclu.org.
- CLCs in SE Massachusetts and the North Shore are working on economic development and Labor Extension is working with them. See the article on SE Massachusetts in this issue.

UMass Dartmouth Future of Work Conference

On Saturday December 9 the UMass Dartmouth Labor Education Center, in partnership with the Greater Southeastern Massachusetts Labor Council and the Community Economic Development Center, presented a conference on economic development. Our goals for this day were threefold: to create or deepen joint work for economic development for social and economic justice; to analyze local opportunities for regional economic development while evaluating the local challenges; and to begin a dialogue with youth about good jobs. We featured U.S. Congressman Barney Frank as the keynote speaker, and the mayors of Fall River and New Bedford led the opening panel.

Over the day, 70 people attended panels and interactive workshops on three themes: creating union jobs for young people, the fight for equitable transportation for SE Massachusetts, and saving and expanding affordable housing. We were fortunate to have representatives from ten unions and five community groups participate.

Continued on back page.



Two members of New Bedford YouthBuild ask questions of Representative Barney Frank at the UMass Dartmouth Future of Work Conference.

Around THE STATE

UMass Dartmouth Labor Education Center Legislative Breakfast

Date TBA: Saturday morning at end of January

Cost: Free

Location: UMass Dartmouth

Contact: Diane Cruz, 508-999-8007

Join us for this annual event co-sponsored with the Greater Southeastern Massachusetts and Bristol-Plymouth Labor Councils. This is an opportunity to directly speak with local elected officials about worker and community concerns

UMass Dartmouth Worker Memorial Day Race

April 15, 9:00 am

Cost: TBA

Location: The race begins at the Athletic Center, UMass Dartmouth

Contact: Diane Cruz, 508-999-8007

Your participation is encouraged for this annual event to support the education work of the Labor Education Center.

Pioneer Valley AFL-CIO Education Conference

April 27

Cost: Free.

Location and time: TBA.

Contact: Jon Weissman, PVAFL-CIO, 413-732-7970

Annual conference open to members of affiliated unions and community organizations. Topic TBA.

Organizers Roundtables

Second Tuesday of every month, 9:30-11:30 am

Cost: free

Location: IBEW 103

Contact: Bill Corley, 617-436-3710

Roundtable discussions on topics of interest to union organizers.

Strategic Analysis in the Labor Movement

Thursday evenings, 7:00-9:30 pm

Cost: Free to non-students

Location: UMass Boston. Room TBA

Contact: Labor Resource Center, 617-287-7426

This seminar series focuses on how labor unions use strategic analysis to develop plans of actions for their unions and industrial sectors. The series will showcase Massachusetts labor leaders including Bob Haynes, Rocío Saenz, Enid Eckstein, and others. People not taking the course for credit can sit in on the whole course, or just come to hear one or more particular speakers.

Changing Workplaces

Monday evenings, 5-9 pm

Cost: Contact Mike Prokosch, 978-934-3239

Location: UMass Lowell. Room TBA

This for-credit course analyzes the reasons why work is changing in every industry and the tools workers can use to build voice and leverage in the workplace. We will look at health and safety organizing, contract campaigns, continuous bargaining, and ways to build unity in our unions.

The Resource Corner

Ending Discrimination Against Working Women

MomsRising.org!



**Fight for a better life for mothers and families
with children. Visit MomsRising.org.**

Do your members face discrimination in the workplace because they are moms—or dads, because they have responsibilities for their children that sometimes conflict with work responsibilities? Do you know that discrimination against mothers—and fathers—is illegal? Do you know what you can win for working families at the bargaining table? A new book and website provides some answers to these questions and ideas for additional actions. The Motherhood Manifesto, by Joan Blades and Kristen Rowe-Finkbeiner, lays out a five-point program for legislative and workplace initiatives. Their website—www.momsrising.org—offers additional ideas for organizing and political action, as well as The Motherhood Manifesto DVD.

Another useful website is the Wage Project's <http://www.wageproject.org/content/wage/>. The Wage Project aims to inspire and help working women to take the steps needed so that every woman is paid what she's worth. The website, an outgrowth of the book *Getting Even* by Evelyn Murphy, offers a number of resources including the Get Even calculator, which helps women calculate how much money each will lose over her work lifetime because of discrimination.

Program Notes

■ UMASS AMHERST

Work at the UMass Amherst program this fall focused on the development of a coalition of immigrant rights groups, providers of legal services, education and job placement services, unions and community organizations to advance the rights of immigrant workers and their families in the Valley. This work grew out of our efforts last year to offer workplace rights training to low-wage and marginal workers, and new entrants to the labor force. As part of this effort the Labor Center will launch a research project to identify the various immigrant groups in the region, where they work, and what their issues are. We also offered our undergraduate course on Women and Work and developed a new workers' rights curriculum module on the rights of temporary and day laborers.

■ UMASS BOSTON

The UMass Boston Labor Resource Center has been going through some difficult moments as a result of cutbacks in the College of Public and Community Service, where the Center is located. The sudden layoffs of over a dozen CPCS faculty and the cancellation of close to half of the courses in the college at the beginning of the semester left the LRC staff scrambling to provide services for our students. Through the herculean effort of all, the situation has stabilized for the moment, and we hope we will see improvements in the future. In any case, the crisis has not prevented the LRC from going ahead with its innovative programming, such as the seminar on Strategic Analysis in the Labor Movement, a course open to both enrolled students and the public, which will be offered this spring. See "Around the State" section for details.

■ UMASS DARTMOUTH

This fall we've been teaching and preparing for our conference, "The Future of Work: Creating a Vision for Economic Development in Southeastern Massachusetts." Months of collaboration with the Greater Southeastern Massachusetts People First Committee and the Community Economic Development Center of SE Massachusetts (CEDC) have made this an exciting power-building event (see article). We have continued to build relationships in the community with more shared work with the CEDC. Part of this has been in building a broad coalition with MassCOSH, the CEDC, and Organization Maya K'ichee to support fish processing workers at Pier Fish as they arrived at a settlement with the company of over \$100,000.00 in unpaid overtime and penalties. We continue to engage with area students and union members through Labor Studies courses and technical assistance to local unions, such as AFSCME Local 2824 of Plymouth.

■ UMASS LOWELL

Education programs for union locals and workers rights trainings have been our main emphasis this fall. The union trainings ranged from stewards' trainings to continuous bargaining. Workers rights trainings were an excellent way to reach immigrant workers. With UMass Boston we did trainings of trainers for teachers and counselors in several ESOL and ABE programs, and soon we will train a team of students to deliver Workers Rights workshops all the students in a large ESOL program in Lawrence. And a highlight of the fall was the spectacularly successful women's solidarity breakfast of the North Shore CLC, attended by over 90 women of many ages, jobs, and ethnicities. The breakfast celebrated the JOI childcare workers' contract victory in Lynn and featured stories of sexual harassment of female janitors living in Lynn. Participants at the breakfast, backed up by the full CLC, committed to send monthly delegations to the building owners in Burlington to demand rights for the workers.

S P O T L I G H T

UMASS AMHERST LABOR CENTER

For over 40 years the Labor Center at UMass Amherst has offered graduate education, research, and direct service to workers and the labor movement in Massachusetts and nationally.

Our residential Master's Degree Program combines coursework, an internship, and hands-on union experience, preparing graduates LEAVING the program to work as researchers, service reps, organizers in the labor movement and other organizations advocating for workers' rights, or for government agencies which support collective bargaining. Working union staff, officers and activists can also enroll in our limited-residency masters program in Union Leadership and Administration, where they attend six ten-day residencies in January and July. The Center also conducts national, regional and local research about work and labor, including research on organizing, strategic campaigns, labor and community coalitions, living wage campaigns, immigration, and globalization. This winter we will launch a research project focused on immigrant workers in the Pioneer Valley, where they work, and what issues they face. We also offer research services in support of organizing, bargaining, and in the policy arena. In addition to our Labor Extension Program staff, our entire faculty has extension experience and is available to deliver programs.



*Labor Center faculty and staff. Front row: Sarah Muzzey, Support Staff; Dale Melcher, Extension Coordinator; Eve Weinbaum, Grad Program Director and Faculty
Back row: Beth Berry, Assistant to the Director; Stephanie Luce, Research Director and Faculty; Tom Juravich, Director; Harris Freeman, Adjunct Faculty*

In the Past 4 months...

The UMass Labor Extension Program Has Provided Trainings On These Topics...

- **Challenging Barriers for Immigrant Students**
Society Organized Against Racism Conference
- **Continuous Bargaining**
Open Enrollment for 5 Merrimack Valley locals
Maine State Employees' Union, SEIU CSEA Local 1000, AFSCME
- **Developing a Message To Win a Contract**
Nashua Municipal Unions
- **Future of Work**
UMass Boston
- **History of Organized Labor on the Waterfront**
Working Waterfront Festival, New Bedford
- **One-On One Training**
AFSCME Local 1736
- **The Boss Can't Do That, Can He? A Training of Trainers on Workers Rights**
SABES Southeastern Mass
- **Stewards Training**
IBEW Local 2321
- **Workers Rights for ESOL / ABE Students**
Massachusetts Coalition of Adult Educators
- **Workers Rights Training**
Merrimack Valley Project Workers Center

To Contact the UMass Labor Extension Program:

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■ UMass Lowell Labor Extension Program

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UMass Dartmouth Future of Work Conference

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Labor Extension played an important role in providing technical assistance for this event.

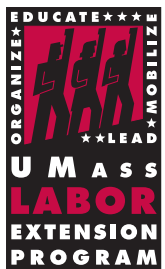
The most important work begins now as we move forward, in coalition, to build a movement for power in the decision-making process in SE Massachusetts. It took many months of planning by a broad committee to make this event a success and we look forward to continuing this work.



Peter Knowlton, president of the Northeastern Region of UE sets the context before the mayors of New Bedford and Fall River address the UMass Dartmouth Future of Work Conference.

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