ILINOIS
School of Labor & Employment Relations

Labor Education Program
2021-2022 Labor Leadership Academy

Certificate program (all 7 classes) tuition: $700. Individual classes $150. Union group rate for 5+ students, $500.

All classes held in person in Chicago
State & Campus COVID safety protocols will be followed

Chicago location: 815 West Van Buren, Ste. 110, Chicago, IL 60607

History & Power of Labor
What does the history of the U.S. look like when viewed from the point of view of those who built the country? The class reviews working-class and labor history since the Civil War, but focuses (with films) on some key labor struggles such as the 1894 Pullman Strike; organizing in the mine and textile industries; the growth of trade unionism; the rise of the CIO and the autowork sit-down strikes; the impact of McCarthyism on the labor movement; and the expansion of public sector unionization (1968 Memphis Sanitation Strike and the 1970 Postal Workers Strike).

Chicago Saturday, Oct. 2, 2021, 9am – 5pm

The Economy & You: Understanding Worker Power
Understanding the economy and examining your day-to-day and long-term social conditions and worker rights. How much power do you have as a worker in the US? Analyzing how the system works will position workers for better strategy and tactics in labor organizing. Topics will include the growth of “right to work” laws, gig work, and automation. We will also examine why the minimum wage has not kept up with the cost of living, and current attacks against prevailing wage. We will consider race, gender, immigrant status, and the impact of globalization on changing working conditions, and how resource distribution at the local, state, and national levels matters for organizing for a better future.

Chicago Saturday, Nov. 20, 2021, 9am-5pm

DATE CHANGED!

Labor & Employment Law
The class covers the basics of labor and employment laws that every union activist should know. The class reviews the laws, the agencies that administer the laws, and the effectiveness and weaknesses of the laws and their enforcement. The course covers the National Labor Relations Act and the challenges workers face in union organizing, strikes, lockouts, and contract campaigns; employment laws that impact all workers such as the Occupational Safety and Health Act, the Fair Labor Standards Act, and anti-discrimination laws; and the Landrum-Griffin Act on union members’ rights.

Chicago Saturday, Dec. 4, 2021, 9am-5pm

Steward Training
The class will discuss how to investigate, screen, write, and negotiate a grievance; how to interview the grievant and witnesses; the multiple roles of a steward; the seven principles of just cause; and the legal rights of union stewards. The class will discuss several common grievance areas, and we will practice resolving grievances.

Chicago Saturday, Jan. 15, 2022, 9am-5pm

Internal Organizing
The class will discuss ways to educate, organize, and mobilize the members. Topics include collective action around grievances; confronting and overcoming divisions such as over race, gender, or immigration status; one-on-one conversations with apathetic or anti-union members; organizing contract campaigns; and organizing in support of bargaining for the common good.

Chicago Saturday, Feb. 5, 2022, 9am-5pm

Collective Bargaining
This class introduces the student to the process and content of collective bargaining. It addresses among other items the legal obligations to bargain, mandatory and permissible subjects of bargaining, types of bargaining relationships, and styles of bargaining and takes the student through multiple stages of labor negotiations. The class also examines the critical information necessary to bargain successfully. Students learn to analyze a contract, cost out a contract, develop a bargaining proposal, practice good table behavior, negotiating skills, how to use the caucus, keep records, and write appropriate contract language.

Chicago Saturday, Mar. 5, 2022, 9am-5pm

Media Matters:
Establishing effective messaging for social media campaigns and the press
This class will provide interactive instruction on building an effective union media strategy. Topics include building your message; writing a press release; writing letters to the editor; how to talk to the press; and creative and impactful social media strategies. The emphasis of the course will be developing inclusive media messaging that amplifies union member’s stories and voices.

Chicago Saturday, Apr. 9 2022, 9am-5pm

Ready to register? Have questions? Contact us!
Chicago | Barbara Nelson, Office Support Specialist | barbarn@illinois.edu | 217.244.7256
Urbana-Champaign | Nadja Robot, Assistant Director | nrobot@illinois.edu | 217.244.2090

Registration link: go.illinois.edu/LaborLeaderCert