The Labor Center provides educational programs and resources to workers and their unions. For over 70 years, we have served as a bridge between the state’s public university system and workers across Iowa’s 99 counties. The Labor Center is located within The University of Iowa College of Law.

We offer non-credit, continuing education courses for Iowa workers on workplace legal rights, industrial relations, and leadership. You can attend open-enrollment classes on campus or host a program that is customized for your members, held in your community.

Our staff also provides research, curriculum, and technical assistance to labor groups, and preserves Iowa’s rich labor history by curating the Iowa Labor History Oral Project.

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What recent attendees are saying about our classes...

The ability to attend these classes has helped me educate my co-workers, family and community on various laws and workplace rights that affect all workers in the state of Iowa.

I learned the skills I need to organize and support my union and my community.

The information and education provided by the Labor Center is essential for low-income workers who want to learn about their rights and defend them.

I loved the hands-on, scenario-based workshops.

The Labor Center gave me the tools, confidence and ability to represent my co-workers and keep them safe on the job.

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The University of Iowa prohibits discrimination in employment, educational programs, and activities on the basis of race, creed, color, religion, national origin, age, sex, pregnancy, disability, genetic information, status as a U.S. veteran, service in the U.S. military, sexual orientation, gender identity, associational preferences, or any other classification that deprives the person of consideration as an individual. The university also affirms its commitment to providing equal opportunities and equal access to university facilities. For additional information on nondiscrimination policies, contact the Director, Office of Institutional Equity, the University of Iowa, 202 Jessup Hall, Iowa City, IA 52242-1316, 319-335-0705, oie-ui@uiowa.edu

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Option 1: You come to us

2022/23 courses presented on The University of Iowa campus in Iowa City, in cooperation with the Iowa Federation of Labor, AFL-CIO

These courses feature instruction provided by Labor Center staff and university faculty as well as invited experts from the labor movement, the legal field, government agencies, and nonprofits.

Financial Officers’ School Dec. 8-9
Collective Bargaining Jan. 30 – Feb. 1
Diversity, Equity & Justice in our Workplaces Feb. 27-28
New Stewards’ School Mar. 27-28
71st Annual Labor Short Course Apr. 24-28
Family and Medical Leave Act (FMLA) May 17-18

- Standard per-person registration fees are: 1-day schools=$150, 2-day schools=$250, 3-day schools=$350, and 5-day schools=$500.
- 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.

For more information or to register, call 319-335-4144, visit http://bit.ly/LC_Program_Registration, or scan here:

Option 2: We come to you

Host a Class Tailored for Your Group:
We conduct programs on dates and at times and locations convenient for your members on topics you care most about.
Sample class topics are listed on the right. For more details and to sponsor a class, call 319-335-4144.

Fees for Off-Campus Classes:
Standard fees are $500/teaching day plus print costs for classes in Iowa hosted by local unions or state-wide bodies.
Regional and national union program rates vary as do rates for programs conducted out of state; call for details. A reduced fee sliding scale is available for groups facing financial hardship.

Legal Rights Topics include:
National Labor Relations Act
Iowa Public Employment Relations Act
Davis-Bacon and Related Acts
Federal Service Labor Management Relations Statute
Railway Labor Act
Rail Safety Improvement Act
Occupational Safety & Health Act
Iowa Workers’ Compensation
Fair Labor Standards Act
Family and Medical Leave Act (FMLA)
Americans with Disabilities Act
Iowa Wage Payment Collection Act
Federal and Iowa Civil Rights Act
Iowa Employment Security Act

Leadership Development Topics include:
Running Effective Meetings
Organizational and Member Communications
Strategic Planning
Executive Board Roles
Financial Officers’ Training
Workplace Grievance Handling
Public Speaking
Coalition Building
Collective Bargaining
Civic Engagement
Unions 101
Iowa Labor History
De-escalation Strategies
Combating Discrimination and Harassment

Leadership Institutes, Curriculum Development, Oral History Interviews, and other Sponsored Projects

In addition to teaching classes, the Labor Center contracts with local, regional, and national unions and nonprofits to host weeklong on-campus leadership institutes, develop customized curriculum, or produce educational materials on labor topics.

The Labor Center convenes statewide alliances and public conferences to tackle the most pressing issues of our time, such as labor and climate, labor and immigration, workplace safety, worker-led economic development, and combating wage theft.

We are also proud to support initiatives such as the Iowa Women in Trades Network, the Iowa Labor History Oral Project (ILHOP), the Iowa Labor History Society, the Iowa BlueGreen Alliance, and our Quality Pre-Apprenticeship Program that promotes pathways into construction registered apprenticeships. Call us to find out more!