

# 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration

**IOWA** | Labor Center



**UNIVERSITY OF IOWA  
LABOR CENTER**

## COVER ART

The stunning art on the cover of this journal was designed by Minnesota-based artist Ricardo Levins Morales for the Labor Center's 75th Anniversary. The image beautifully captures the spirit of our program with layers of stories and meaning.

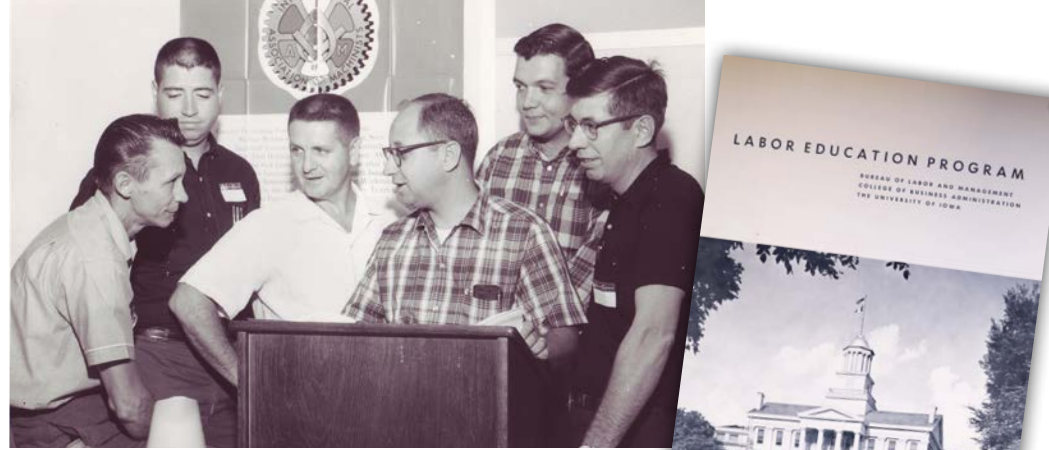
Above all, the image places working people at the center of the story. We at the Labor Center never forget that this beloved educational center, that empowers workers and strengthens our university, has been shaped and sustained from its inception by the state's labor movement. In the image, you'll see a coal miner from Iowa's early history, along with the generations of construction, healthcare, education, and industrial workers. In labor's struggles for living wages, safety, and retirement security, workers also lobbied for democracy, schools, and a program in their state university devoted to labor research and education.

The concept of a quilt also has powerful layers of meaning. Throughout history, quilts have been a way of telling collective stories, passing traditions to the next generation, and turning humble scraps of fabric into a rich tapestry of warmth and beauty. The squares in this quilt depict the countless ways that workers, faculty, students, and community leaders have come together in Labor Center programs to exchange ideas, develop their leadership, learn about their rights, defend this program, and record their history. The quilt follows the contours of the state, from the fields to the university to the river at its border.

## JOURNAL DESIGN

Robyn Hepker of Benson & Hepker Design in Iowa City designed this beautiful commemorative journal. Robyn transformed our text documents and photos into an exquisite product that showcases the Labor Center's proud legacy.

We are grateful to Ricardo Levins Morales and Robyn Hepker for helping us capture the spirit of this anniversary, as we celebrate our past and continue to weave a brighter future for Iowa.



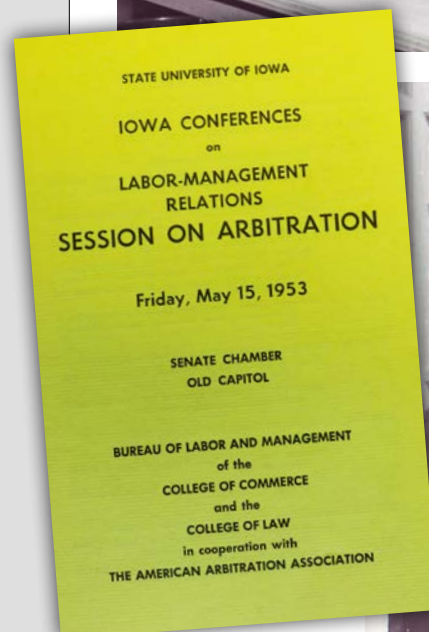
Top left: Iowa State Council of Machinists Leadership Institute, date unknown

Center left: Communications Workers of America Leadership Institute, date unknown

Bottom: Women in Industry Conference, May 1963

Center right: Labor Advisory Committee Meeting, July 2010

Top right: United Auto Workers Leadership Institute, 1950s



## Message from the Director

Welcome! Thank you for joining the University of Iowa Labor Center as we celebrate our first 75 years. When this center was founded in 1951, I believe the labor leaders who worked with university and legislative leaders to bring this vision into existence fully expected that the University of Iowa Labor Center would still be operating 75 years later. Iowa's workers are optimistic and determined people. When something is important, they do what is necessary to make it succeed, and worker education is important to them. With that spirit behind the Labor Center, it would have to flourish.

And because of the hard work, creativity, and solidarity of Iowa's workers, the Labor Center has flourished. Together, we have built a Labor Center that participants say opened their eyes to possibilities they didn't know existed. Together, we developed a fatigue curriculum that has been used around the country and has led to changes in scheduling practices to reduce worker fatigue. Together, we built bridges between underserved communities and skilled trades apprenticeship programs, creating new opportunities for both. Together, we hosted national and regional programs in which workers from across the country come to Iowa for their education, and take a little bit of Iowa home with them.

Even as the names of labor educators and our labor and community partners have changed over the last 75 years, the Labor Center has become a nationally recognized center for worker education, because the same commitment has remained. All of us share a common love and respect for working people, curiosity to learn from each other, and dedication to provide the best education for Iowa's working people. It is with great pride that we pause for a moment to look over the last 75 years, the giants upon whose shoulders we stand, and all of the vital collaborations between the Labor Center, the University of Iowa community, and Iowa's workers. The Labor Center helps to put into practice University President Virgil M. Hancher's promise to the Iowa labor community at a state conference in 1952 that "the State University is their university, that it is the university of all the people."

It is good and right from time to time to take a moment and reflect on the past, to remember not only the struggles and sacrifices, but also the joyful moments of collaboration and the people who became the cornerstones of the Labor Center. But today is about something more. The commitment of Iowa's workers does not stop at 75 years. Iowa's workers still need and value quality worker education, and innovative collaborations among labor, the University of Iowa, and the communities in which they live. The spirit and commitment that created the Labor Center and nurtured it for 75 years lives on. What's past is prologue; the rest of the story is still unwritten.

So tonight, please enjoy the time reminiscing with each other over everything that the Labor Center has meant for you over the years, and the myriad ways that you have contributed to the success of the Labor Center. But also, please look ahead with us to the future and dream big, of what the Labor Center can continue to be and become with your support. It is good to build castles in the sky, for that is where they should be, all we have to do together is build foundations under them.

# 75 Years of Strengthening Iowa through Labor Education

## Creating a labor education center at the University of Iowa

**1949**  
Iowa Governor William Beardsley calls for a state program to advance labor-management relations. UI President Virgil M. Hancher enlists College of Law Professor Clarence Updegraff to plan a new Bureau of Labor and Management.

**1951**  
Iowa Federation of Labor (IFL) President Ray Mills and IFL Education Director John Cosgrove meet with UI officials to secure a labor education program within the bureau and plan its first leadership institute: the Labor Short Course. The IFL Convention passes a resolution committing to full cooperation with the program.



## Hosting labor institutes on campus as "the university for all the people"

**1952**  
The first weeklong Labor Short Course is held on campus with workers from Des Moines, Fort Dodge, Sioux City, and Cedar Rapids. The Short Course becomes a beloved program for emerging leaders that takes place each of the next 74 years.

UI President Hancher speaks at a state labor event to celebrate the bureau's first year, as evidence of the UI's commitment to be "the university of all the people."

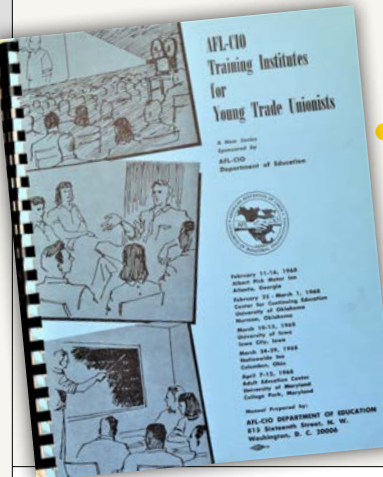
**1953**  
Annual Arbitration and Labor Law Institutes begin, featuring faculty, labor leaders, attorneys, and national experts. United Rubber Workers sponsor an on-campus institute in 1957, followed by six other unions. Colleges and unions across the U.S. request information as the program gains national attention.

## Bringing the campus to Iowa communities & new initiatives to campus

**1959**  
UI labor educators travel to Keokuk to teach a labor short course. Union Leadership Academies begin in Dubuque, Clinton, Des Moines, Davenport, Cedar Rapids, Burlington, Sioux City, and Waterloo. By the 1960s, packinghouse workers, grain millers, building trades, and aluminum workers sponsor classes across Iowa.

**1968**  
UI Labor Center hosts an AFL-CIO institute for workers under age 30 from six states, covering civics, economics, history, civil rights, social security, and poverty.

Delegates to the state IFL convention vote to fund a Graduate Research Assistant at the UI to strengthen bonds between labor and higher education.



## Understanding and implementing new laws & preserving our history

**1968 - 1972**  
The Labor Center leads a CWA oral history project, recording 89 interviews with members across the U.S., which became the basis for a book.

**1970s**  
The Labor Center reaches over 1,000 workers per year and develops classes on a wave of new laws, such as: Civil Rights, Occupational Safety and Health, Iowa Public Employment Relations, and Employee Retirement Income Security.

**1977**  
ILHOP begins interviews. IFL President James Wengert launches the Iowa Labor History Oral Project in cooperation with the Labor Center. It becomes one of the largest such projects in the world, collecting 1,500 interviews over 50 years.



## A new era in the Division of Continuing Education

**1988**  
The Labor Center joins the Division of Continuing Education.

**1990s**  
The Labor Center reaches over 2,000 workers in 60-70 programs each year. New classes include the Americans with Disabilities Act, the Family and Medical Leave Act, NAFTA, and the AFL-CIO's Common Sense Economics course. The FMLA course designed in the 1990s is regularly updated and remains in high demand.

**1998**  
The *Labor Studies Journal* is established by a national labor education association. Generations of UI educators contribute articles and serve on its board.



## New Curriculum with Competitive Federal Grant Awards

**2002 - 2004**  
The Labor Center leads two large federally funded education projects. The Child Labor Public Education Project designs four modules that are requested by educators across the globe and reach hundreds of lowans in workshops. New "train-the-trainer" classes address ergonomics hazards in construction.

**2009**  
A new curriculum to combat unlawful discrimination against work-authorized immigrants reaches hundreds of lowans, with U.S. Department of Justice funding.



## Reaching new audiences, reviving oral histories, overcoming obstacles

**2010**  
A popular series of public conferences explore topics such as wage theft, health care, and the global economy. This spurs new classes for low-wage workers, and a new Iowa Workers Rights Manual, available in English and Spanish.

**2013**  
The Labor Center secures funding to begin a new round of ILHOP oral history interviews, and works with the UI Libraries to digitize the collection for public access.

**2016**  
The Labor Center moves to its current home in the UI College of Law.

**2018**  
An estimated 10,000 students, workers, faculty, and residents across Iowa lead a successful nine-month Save Our Labor Center movement to reverse an unexpected decision to close the center.

**2019**  
The Labor Center launches a Quality PreApprenticeship Program (QPP) to create new pathways into skilled trades careers, with the Iowa State Building and Construction Trades Council, community nonprofits, and government agencies.

## Responding to a global pandemic and launching local & national initiatives

**2020**  
During the COVID-19 pandemic, the Labor Center partners with national and state experts to develop up-to-the minute public education on changing unemployment policies, workplace safety protocols, and sick leave protections.

**2023**  
New worker safety classes focused on Fatigue and Extreme Temperatures reach nearly 1,500 workers over two years with classes as part of an OSHA grant.

**2020s**  
Partnerships with students and faculty in UI Counseling Psychology, UI Legal Clinics, Hubbell Environmental Law Initiative, Carver College of Medicine, and the Obermann Center strengthen academic studies and Labor Center course offerings.

# We are Iowa's Labor Center

## A Tiny Team with a Far-Reaching State and National Impact



### BY THE NUMBERS

# 68,043

workers have attended off-campus and on-campus classes with the University of Iowa Labor Center over the past 30 years.

# 2,794

workers, representing 74 Iowa counties and 25 states, were involved in classes in FY25, taught by two full-time educators.

# 40,000+

Iowa workers are reached each year, via their leaders sharing information learned in Labor Center classes.

### Education, Research, and Initiatives to Navigate the Ever-Changing World of Work

Workplace technology, laws, and the economy are constantly changing, with profound implications for our state's working people and communities. Since its founding in 1951, generations of Iowans trust the Labor Center to provide accurate, up-to-date educational programming that helps workers navigate these changes and shape the future.

### Classes for Workers on Campus and Across Iowa

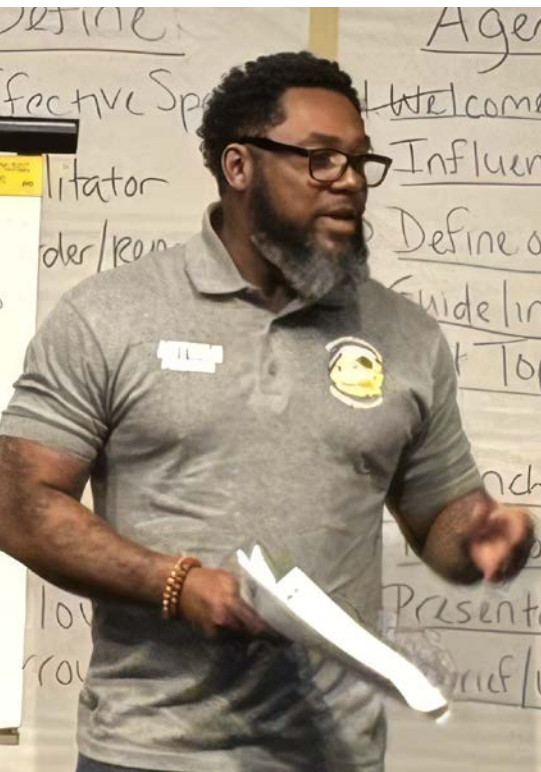
Education has always been at the heart of the center's work and mission. The university and labor leaders who founded the center identified its core functions as providing on-campus conferences that bring together labor, faculty, and other experts, as well as off-campus classes taken to community members around the state.

### Applied Research Relevant to the Needs of Workers

The Labor Center is the only unit within the state university system that specializes in the issues affecting working Iowans. As new challenges arise, we work with faculty and students across the university to compile the latest research. Our Graduate Research Assistants gain unique experience applying their academic interests to real-world issues.

### Innovative Partnerships to Meet Today's Challenges

Through generations of deep engagement with Iowa workers and communities, we are a trusted hub that can bring together new partnerships to tackle pressing local issues. Throughout our history, people have turned to the Labor Center to launch new oral history projects, create new pathways into apprenticeship, and forge alliances on complex issues.



**The University of Iowa Labor Center is the most important resource for workers to understand their place in the world now, in the past, and in the challenging world they face ahead."**

CHARLIE WISHMAN, PRESIDENT, IOWA FEDERATION OF LABOR

# Education

## that Empowers Workers to Promote Safe, Quality Jobs



How are advances in AI playing out in Iowa's workplaces? What have changes in Iowa Worker's Compensation law meant for injured workers? How would new OSHA rules impact workers' safety in extreme heat? These are just a few of the recent topics that workers, faculty, students, and alumni guest speakers have explored in recent classes.

### Accessible, Relevant, Interactive Adult Education

Our participants bring a wealth of experience and ideas to the classroom. Throughout its history the Labor Center has been a leader in developing adult education curriculum that encourages workers to discuss their experiences, analyze patterns, link their experience to new research, and put ideas into practice through role plays and classroom simulations.

### When Workers Know their Rights, they Strengthen our Economy and Save Lives

Over the past 75 years, the legal landscape has changed dramatically. The Labor Center is the only specialized educational unit in the state focused on ensuring that Iowa's workers are equipped to understand, implement, and shape the laws and policies that affect them. When frontline workers feel confident in their knowledge of laws like the Occupational Safety and Health Act, they can address hazards in real-time and save lives.

The Labor Center currently teaches a wide range of workers' rights classes customized to fit the needs of workers in each sector of the economy, covering laws such as:

- National Labor Relations Act
- Iowa Public Employment Relations Act
- Davis-Bacon and Related Acts
- Federal Service Labor Management Relations Statute
- Railway Labor Act
- Occupational Safety and Health Act
- Fair Labor Standards Act
- Iowa Workers' Compensation
- Iowa Child Labor Law
- Family and Medical Leave Act
- Americans with Disabilities Act
- Iowa Wage Payment Collection Act
- Federal and Iowa Civil Rights Acts
- Iowa Employment Security Act (Unemployment)

The biggest thing the Labor Center has given me is the confidence to stand in front of a group of people and speak from my heart and mind.

LORRI WALKER, 2019 – UNITED STEELWORKERS LOCAL 444L

## Developing Generations of Workplace Leaders



Iowa's future depends on developing new generations of leaders from across our state and economy. The participants in Labor Center classes are leaders in their workplaces and labor organizations. Often, they are also leaders in local clubs and nonprofits. Many have gone on to hold elected office in Iowa cities, counties, and the State Legislature.

Since its inception, the Labor Center has provided unique, specialized leadership institutes for workers from Iowa and across the U.S. The Labor Short Course is the most beloved and consistent of these programs, welcoming dozens of emerging labor leaders to the UI campus each year since 1952 for an intensive weeklong school planned in cooperation with the Iowa Federation of Labor.

Short Course covers a vast array of topics, such as: labor and employment laws, labor history, economic policy, collective bargaining, public speaking, community-labor partnerships, civic engagement, running effective meetings, and public speaking.

Cedar Rapids Grain Miller Lloyd Freilinger attended the Short Course in 1964. In an oral history interview 20 years later, he reflected on that experience. "That spring, they sent me to the leadership school at the University of Iowa. I spent a week down there. Over the years, I have thought back on that so many times, about how helpful that class was to me to go to this Short Course," he recalled, "I left that school just feeling much more confident about my ability to do my job as a representative of the local."

The Labor Center also hosts customized leadership programs for local, state, and national labor organizations. From 2024 – 2025, the center led a leadership program for young construction workers in Eastern Iowa called Stepping Up for Iowa's Future. The Iowa NALC, Iowa State Building Trades Council, and Iowa Federation of Labor host annual state leadership programs, and the Communications Workers of America and Postal Press Association (APWU) turn to Iowa's Labor Center for their national leadership institutes.

# Dream Big

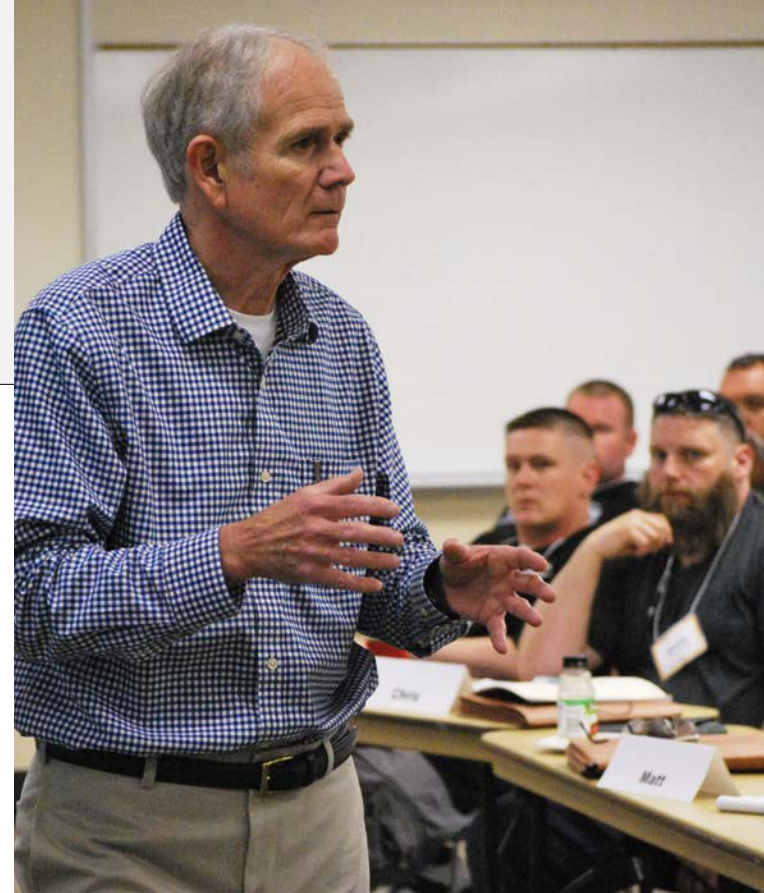
A Hub for Campus-Community Initiatives for the Public Good

Generations of campus and community relationships give the Labor Center a unique ability to serve as a trusted hub for bringing together labor, community, and campus leaders to dream up new initiatives and facilitate pilot projects.

The **Iowa Labor History Oral Project (ILHOP)** is an incredible example. In the 1970s, Labor President James Wengert envisioned a sweeping new initiative to record and preserve the rich history of Iowa's working people. The Labor Center played a critical role in helping to convene historians, archivists, and graduate students who could work with labor leaders to realize that vision and create one of the largest and longest-running labor oral history projects in the world. In the 2010s, the Labor Center revived a new round of interviews and worked with the UI Libraries and State Historical Society to digitize them. Iowa workers and historians from across the globe can now go online to listen to the voices of generations of working Iowans talking about their work, struggles, and achievements.

The UI Labor Center launched the **Quality Pre-Apprenticeship Program (QPP)** in 2019, with the Iowa State Building and Construction Trades Council and its national federation. Today, this program is addressing urgent local needs. The Iowa City/Cedar Rapids area is experiencing a construction boom — and a soaring demand for skilled craftspeople. Many residents urgently need good jobs but often aren't aware of the state-of-the-art registered apprenticeship training centers in the area, or how to apply and stand out as candidates. In partnership with local nonprofits, the local building trades council, school counselors, and a grant from the City of Iowa City, the Labor Center is bridging the gap through a 5-week apprenticeship readiness program and year-round recruitment and placement support.

Equipping nonprofit, faith, government, and labor leaders to combat **wage theft**. In 2012, groups across Iowa began reporting a rise in "wage theft" — when workers aren't paid the wages they are legally owed. This can take many forms — taking tips, unlawful deductions, overtime violations, or simply not paying workers. State and federal wage payment laws can be confusing, so the Labor Center partnered with community leaders, researchers, and public officials to design accessible workshops, videos, brochures, and multilingual toolkits to raise awareness. The center also convened public conferences featuring national trailblazers and local panels focused on multi-pronged strategies for change.



## Interdisciplinary Collaborations with University Students, Faculty, and Alumni

Throughout its history, the Labor Center has served as a campus hub for innovative interdisciplinary research, teaching, and community engagement projects.

As the sole unit specializing in workplace and labor issues in the Regents system, our staff members regularly mentor and advise undergraduate, graduate, and professional students who are pursuing labor and employment-related research and career interests. We work with faculty on labor-related research, co-sponsor public events, and speak in classes.

Law Research Assistant R. Femi Mojekwu (J.D. Candidate Class of 2027) is researching and writing a comprehensive update to the Iowa Workers' Rights Manual, which summarizes over 50 federal and state laws governing Iowa workplaces.

Undergraduate Student Intern Mia O'Connor-Walker is co-authoring a policy report with the Labor Center and Common Good Iowa, on the frontline experiences of Iowa workers on utility-scale solar projects in Eastern Iowa.

The 74th Annual Labor Short Course in April 2026 provides a glimpse into Labor Center engagement with faculty and students across campus, featuring sessions including:

- **Stewards' Rights under the NLRA** — Professor César Rosado Marzán, College of Law
- **Public Speaking** — Assistant Professor Meghann Foster, Tippie College of Business
- **Iowa Workers' Compensation** — UI Law Alumnus Jay Smith, JD, Smith & McElwain
- **Managing Workplace Stress** — Ph.D. Students Mariam Ahmad, Imana Dizdarik, and Iris Peimann, Counseling Psychology, College of Education
- **Solidarity & Survival: Iowa's Labor History** — Professor Emeritus Shelton Stromquist, Department of History, College of Liberal Arts and Sciences
- **Protecting Workers in the Age of Artificial Intelligence** — Technology Law Clinic students Mark Prihoda, Anthony Ruiz, and Henry Schwob, College of Law

There's only one place in Iowa for workers to go to get the education they need for jobsite issues – that's the University of Iowa Labor Center.

BILL GERHARD, BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT COORDINATOR, IOWA LABORERS EMPLOYERS COOPERATION & EDUCATION TRUST

# 2026 Labor Center Staff



**Paul Iversen**  
Director and Labor Educator



**Robin Clark-Bennett**  
Labor Educator



**Samantha Groark**  
Labor Educator, TradesFutures Grant



**Noël VanDenBosch**  
Administrative Services Specialist



**R. Femi Mojekwu**  
Law Research Assistant



**Mia O'Connor-Walker**  
Undergraduate Student Intern

# Labor Advisory Committee

The Labor Advisory Committee includes leaders from across Iowa, in every sector of the state's economy. It meets semi-annually to review, evaluate, and promote Labor Center programs, generate proposals for new educational or research projects, and strengthen relationships between the university and Iowa workers.

**Hannah Bott**  
Lead Organizer, SEIU Healthcare  
Minnesota & Iowa

**Jesse Case**  
Secretary-Treasurer, IBT Local 238

**Todd Copley**  
President, AFSCME Council 61

**Greg Cross**  
International Representative, UE

**J.D. Fitch**  
Business Manager/Secretary-Treasurer,  
IUPAT, DC 81

**Shane Forbes**  
President, RWDSU Local 110

**Bill Gerhard**  
Business Development Coordinator, Iowa  
LECET

**Pam Gonzales**  
Directing Business Representative,  
IAMAW District Lodge 6

**Dan Gosa**  
President, Great River Area Labor  
Federation, AFL-CIO

**Ryan Hanghian**  
President, Iowa Professional Fire Fighters

**Tom Hayes**  
President, South Central Iowa Federation  
of Labor, AFL-CIO

**Felicia Hilton**  
Political Director, Mid-America Carpenters  
Regional Council

**Jeff Hartford**  
Assistant to the Director, District 11,  
United Steelworkers

**Peter Hird**  
Secretary-Treasurer, Iowa Federation of  
Labor, AFL-CIO

**Ruark Hotopp**  
National Vice President, AFGE District 8

**Kim Karol**  
President, Iowa Postal Workers Union-  
APWU

**Simplice Kuelo**  
President, UFCW Local 431

**Coy Marquardt**  
Executive Director, Iowa State Education  
Association

**Christopher Martin**  
President, United Faculty-AAUP,  
University of Northern Iowa

**Rick Moyle**  
Executive Director, Hawkeye Area Labor  
Council, AFL-CIO

**Jen Pellant**  
President, Western Iowa Labor  
Federation, AFL-CIO

**Tom Rentz**  
President, Iowa State Association of  
Letter Carriers, NALC

**Matt Resor**  
State Conference Chair, IBEW

**Andy Roberts**  
President, Iowa State Building &  
Construction Trades Council

**Mike Sadler II**  
President, Cedar Rapids/Iowa City  
Building & Construction Trades Council

**Ken Sagar**  
President, Iowa Alliance for Retired  
Americans



**Brad Schwanda**  
International Representative/Education  
Coordinator, UAW Region 4

**Jay Smith**  
Attorney, Smith & McElwain Law

**Tom Townsend**  
President, Dubuque Area Labor Harvest,  
Iowa State Senator

**Bonnie Winther**  
International Representative, CWA

**Charlie Wishman**  
President, Iowa Federation of Labor, AFL-  
CIO

**Todd Pettys** (ex-officio member)  
Dean and Professor of Law, UI College of  
Law

**César Rosado Marzán** (ex-officio  
member)  
Professor of Law, Labor Center Faculty  
Liaison, UI College of Law

At this Historic Moment,

# Our Future Depends on Connections, Shared Ideas, and Solidarity

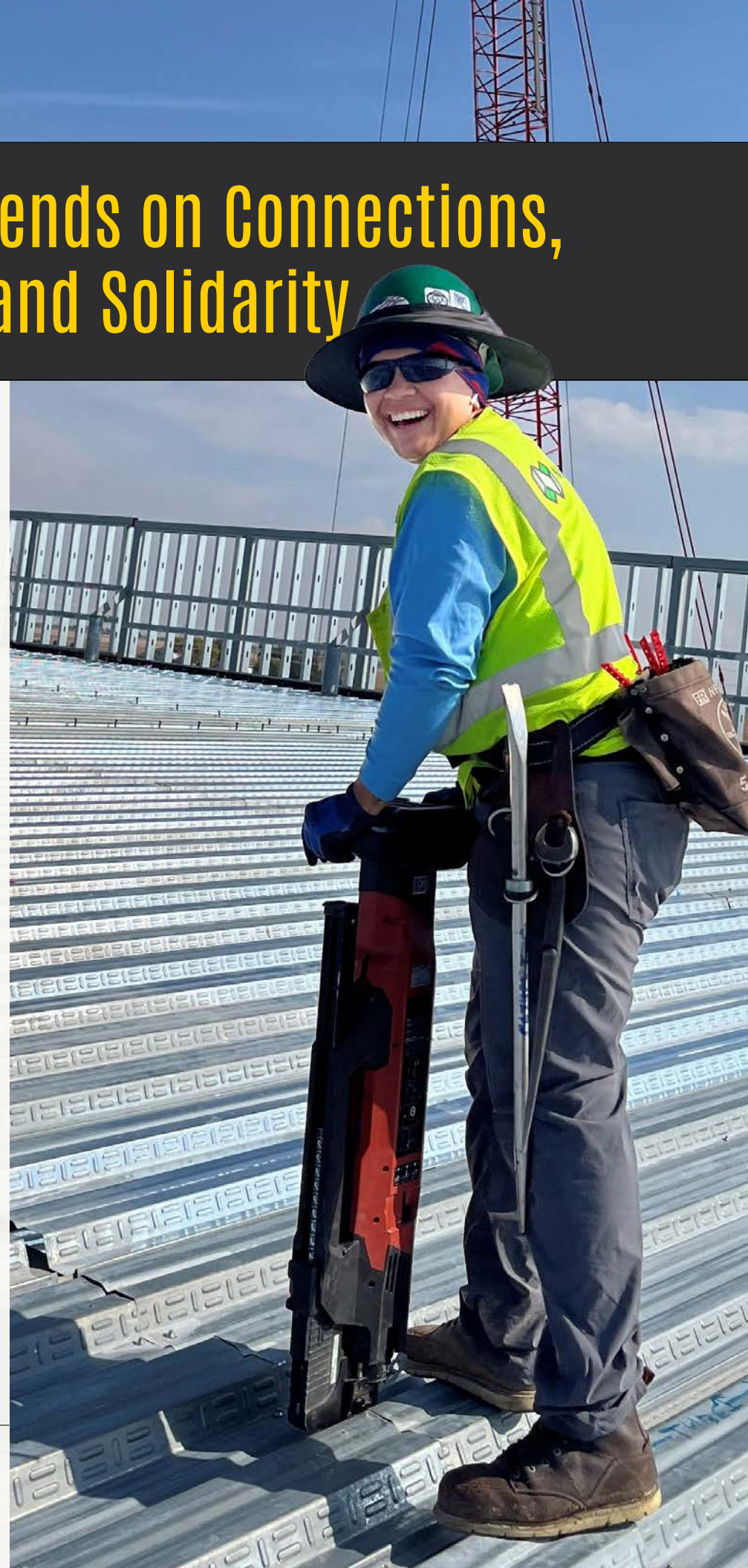
Today, we are living in a time of upheaval and uncertainty, destruction and possibility. When the path forward is unclear, it's more important than ever to bring people together from all walks of life to learn from each other's challenges, experiences, and ideas and find the answers we need.

The Labor Center is a unique and trusted hub that can bring together uncommon alliances, across the many differences that divide us. Thanks to the generations of workers and educators who built and sustained this program, we stand ready at this critical moment to help pilot new programs and deliver up-to-date information that meet Iowa's needs.

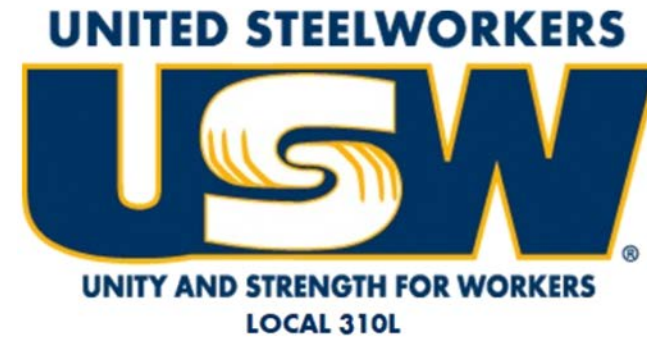
New laws and issues will arise, but it's clear that there will be a need for educational programming in the coming years on topics such as:

- Artificial Intelligence in the Workplace
- Access to Quality Healthcare
- Retirement Security for Working-Class Seniors
- Our Climate and Energy Future
- Democracy and Civic Engagement
- Updating our Laws to Fit the Gig Economy
- And so much more!

Together, we will make the promise meaningful that our public university is "the university for all the people," a space where workers, faculty, and students shape Iowa's future.



Congratulations, University of Iowa Labor Center, on your 75th anniversary. Thank you for your 75 years of dedication and continued service to educate the citizens of Iowa on workers rights.



CONGRATULATIONS

IOWA

Labor Center

on 75 years of educating workers! Thank you for years of dedication to empowering workers and their unions so they can achieve better lives for themselves and their families. May you continue to make a difference for everyday working families well into the future.

Jan Laue, Secretary-Treasurer (retired)

Iowa Federation of Labor, AFL-CIO

# BLAKE & UHLIG PA

Founded in 1972

## CONGRATULATES

### The University of Iowa Labor Center

on its

# 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary

Michael E. Amash  
Nathan S. Terry  
Michelle L. Graves

Nathan J. Hill  
Jason R. McClitis  
Frederick Zarate  
Amanda K. Rhodes

Scott L. Brown  
Brandon E. Wood  
Eric C. Beckemeier  
Jordan L. Glasgow

Cayla M. Rodney  
Victoria M. Henley  
Marisa B. Gates  
Garrison Howell

Carolyn S. Haglof  
Nadia Hundley  
Andrew Gagnon

**USW Local 105  
Congratulates  
The Labor Center  
on their 75<sup>th</sup>  
anniversary.  
Thank You  
For Your Service to  
Labor!**



**USW Local 105**  
880 Devils Glen Road  
Bettendorf, Iowa 52722  
**563.355.1181**


**Bruce Clark and Richard Alper  
Our Daughter Robin Clark Bennett,  
Paul Iversen,**

**And other current and past Labor Center staff  
Do amazing work for Iowa Workers**


**THE STRUGGLE CONTINUES  
INTERNATIONAL WORKING CLASS  
SOLIDARITY FOREVER**



SHEET METAL | AIR | RAIL | TRANSPORTATION



**SMART**  
LOCAL UNION 263

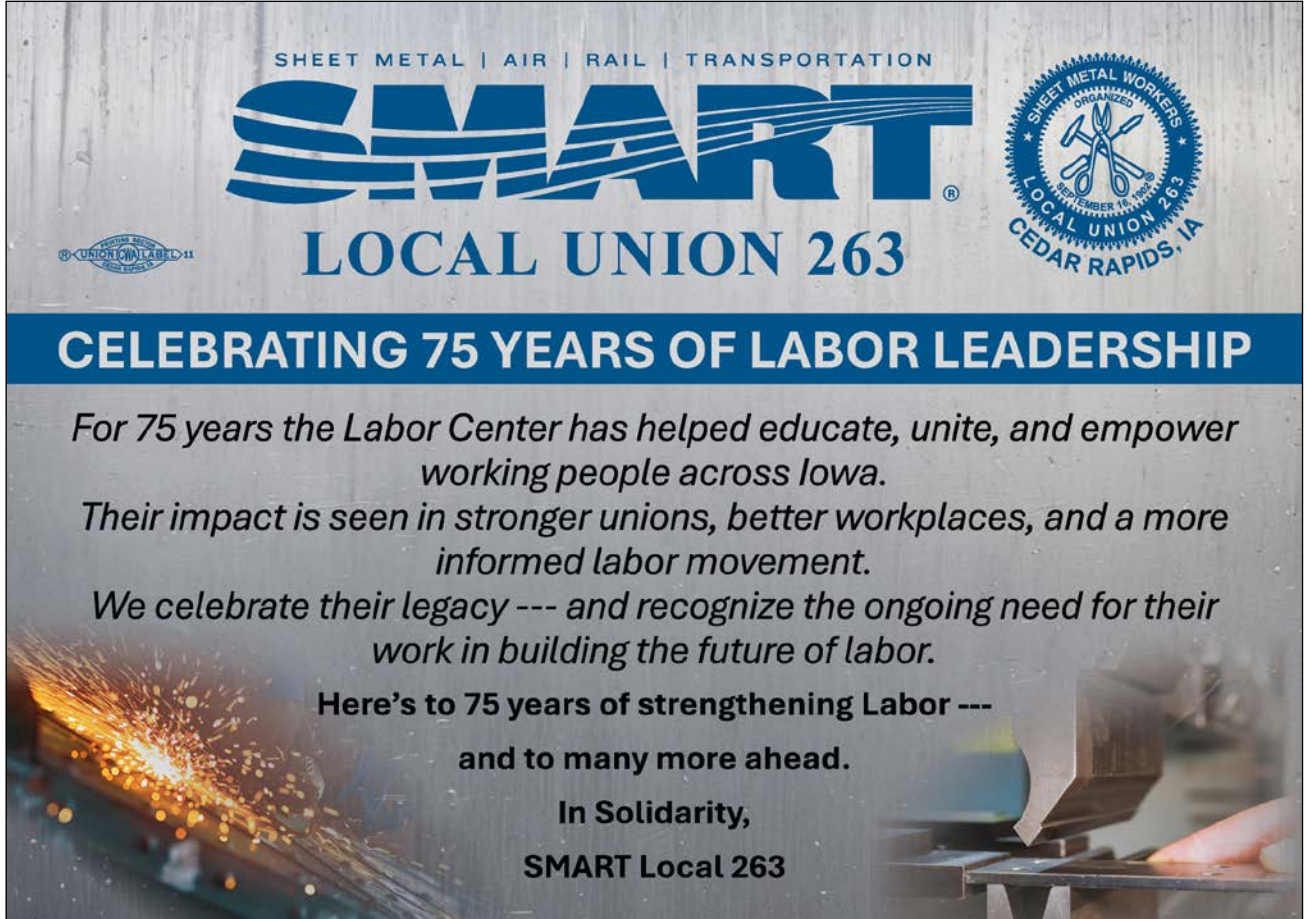


**CELEBRATING 75 YEARS OF LABOR LEADERSHIP**

*For 75 years the Labor Center has helped educate, unite, and empower working people across Iowa.  
Their impact is seen in stronger unions, better workplaces, and a more informed labor movement.  
We celebrate their legacy --- and recognize the ongoing need for their work in building the future of labor.*

**Here's to 75 years of strengthening Labor ---  
and to many more ahead.**

**In Solidarity,  
SMART Local 263**



HAPPY 75<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY  
TO THE UNIVERSITY OF  
IOWA LABOR CENTER

FROM JERRY KEARNS - FORMER  
IOWA HOUSE MEMBER, RETIRED  
STEELWORKER STAFF REP, PROUD  
PARTICIPANT OF NUMEROUS  
LABOR CENTER CLASSES, AND  
FORMER MEMBER OF THE LABOR  
CENTER ADVISORY BOARD.



*On behalf of the  
Quad City Federation of Labor, AFL-CIO  
Executive Board & Delegates*

**CONGRATULATIONS!!**  
UNIVERSITY OF IA LABOR CENTER  
ON YOUR 75<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY

BUILDING SOLIDARITY AMONG OUR  
UNIONS AND WITHIN OUR COMMUNITY

Representing Labor Communities & Working Families  
Contact: 309-788-1303 or [solidarity@quadcityfed.com](mailto:solidarity@quadcityfed.com)



**WE PROUDLY SUPPORT THE  
UNIVERSITY OF IOWA LABOR CENTER!**

**CONGRATULATIONS ON 75 YEARS!**

**BOILERMAKERS LOCAL #83  
BRICKLAYERS LOCAL #3  
CARPENTERS LOCAL #106  
ELECTRICIANS LOCAL #347  
ELEVATOR CONSTRUCTORS LOCAL #33  
GLAZIERS LOCAL #1075  
INSULATORS LOCAL #74  
IRONWORKERS LOCAL #67**

**LABORERS LOCAL #177  
OPERATING ENGINEERS LOCAL #234  
PAINTERS LOCAL #246  
PLASTERER & CEMENT MASONS LOCAL #538  
PLUMBERS & STEAMFITTERS LOCAL #33  
ROOFERS & WATERPROOFERS LOCAL #142  
SHEET METAL WORKERS LOCAL #45  
SPRINKLERFITTERS LOCAL #669**

P.O. Box 3312, Des Moines, IA 50316

[www.centraliowabuildingtrades.org](http://www.centraliowabuildingtrades.org)

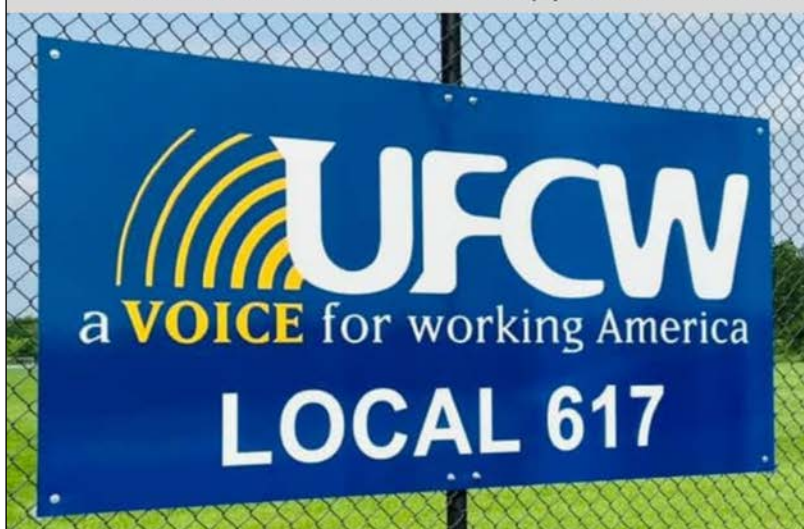
“I remember when our union was first organized in the early 1970s. It was not easy for a group of transfers from South St. Paul and local Iowa farmers to suddenly learn how to run a union. The Labor Center played a critical role in helping us get organized and in teaching us what it meant to build and operate a strong union.

“With their help, we were able to build a union that truly served its members. We did what a union is supposed to do. A big part of that success came

from the guidance and education provided by the Labor Center. We regularly sent stewards to Iowa City for training and held workshops whenever we had the opportunity.”

-Tom Cale

Former Executive Board Member  
UFCW Local 617





# IOWA'S BUILDING TRADES UNIONS

*South Central Iowa Building Trades*

- Boilermakers Local 83**
- Bricklayers Local 3**
- Carpenters Local 1260**
- Cement Masons Local 538**
- Electricians Local 13**
- Elevator Constructor Local 33**
- Insulators Local 74**
- Ironworkers Local 67**
- Ironworkers Local 577**
- Laborers Local 538**
- Millwrights Local 234**
- Operators Local 234**
- Painters District Council 81**
- Plumbers & Steamfitters Local 33**
- Roofers Local 32**
- Roofers Local 142**
- Sheet Metal Workers Local 91**



**CONGRATULATIONS  
TO THE UNIVERSITY  
OF IOWA LABOR  
CENTER ON THEIR  
75TH ANNIVERSARY!**

**CONGRATS TO THE LABOR CENTER  
ON 75 YEARS!**

**THANK YOU FOR YOUR  
COMMITMENT TO GENERATIONS  
OF WORKING IOWANS!**



*In Solidarity,  
Andy, Sam, & Walter*

**Communications Workers of America**  
**Celebrating 75 Years**  
**Of the University of Iowa Labor Center**



**The Communications Workers of America, District 7, is proud to celebrate this milestone and our shared commitment to solidarity, dignity, and justice for all workers.**



**Congratulations on 75 years**  
**of making Iowa stronger**  
**through workforce education.**



**Congratulations on**  
**75 Years!**

**From all of us at**  
**Plumbers and Pipefitters Local 125,**  
**Cedar Rapids, IA.**




**CONGRATS ON 75 YEARS!**

The sheet metal workers of SMART Local 91 are proud to support our brothers and sisters of University of Iowa Labor Center.

**Solidarity forever.**

smw91.org

Toward the end of my apprenticeship with the Ironworkers, I asked my dad about my grandfather, who was also an Ironworker. I asked him if he any funny stories, anecdotes, any sort of information about him. He said, "I can do you one better," and produced a stack of CDs and transcripts that are part of the Iowa Labor History Oral Project, a phenomenal project that documents and records interviews about workers here in the state of Iowa. I was able to listen to him speak about things like mistreatment of workers and safety conditions on job sites. Although that interview was forty-five years ago, we're still fighting for the same things today. The Labor Center is instrumental in doing this research and keeping workers educated about worker justice around the state.

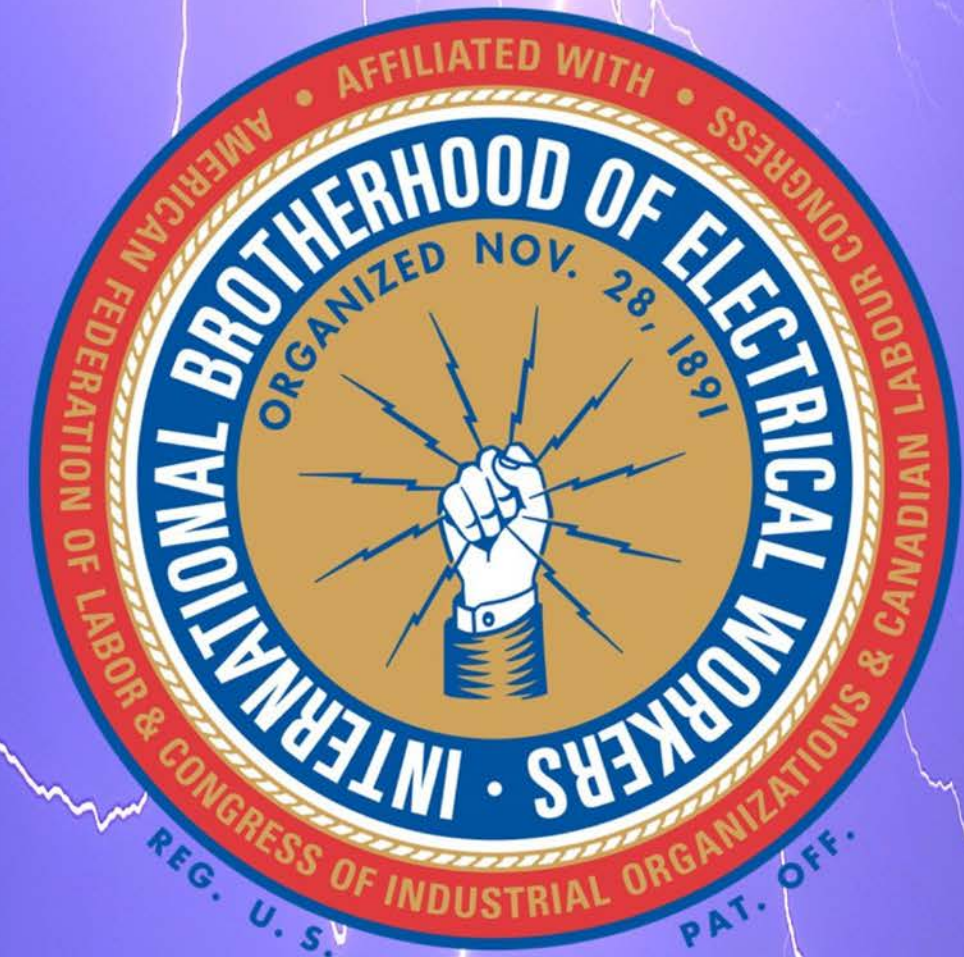
JOEY ZAHORIK, IRON WORKER, CEDAR RAPIDS

ROOFERS LOCAL 182



PHONE: (319) 373-2575

**INTERNATIONAL BROTHERHOOD  
OF ELECTRICAL WORKERS  
LOCAL UNION 347**



**CHARTERED DECEMBER 26, 1914  
WE PROUDLY SERVE 2400 MEMBERS IN  
CENTRAL IOWA IN CONSTRUCTION,  
MAINTENANCE, MANUFACTURING AND  
BROADCASTING**

*Congratulations U of I Labor Center for  
75 years of education and dedication to the  
labor movement!*



## **DISTRICT 11**

**Cathy Drummond**  
*District Director*

**Jeff Hartford**  
*Assistant to the Director*

**PROUDLY SERVING  
SOUTHEAST IOWA**



**IBEWLOCAL13.COM  
SEIAJATC.ORG**

**Congratulations,  
University of Iowa Labor Center**

*on 75 years of hard work, dedication, and service to the working  
class. Thank you to all past and present staff for everything you do  
for our members and for workers across Iowa and beyond.*

**We Celebrate  
Your Success**

Congratulations University of Iowa  
Labor Center on your 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary

**Segal**



CONGRATULATIONS ON  
75 YEARS OF SERVING  
WORKING FAMILIES!

# Congratulations from UFCW

The United Food and Commercial Workers International Union proudly supports the University of Iowa Labor Center's 75th Anniversary Celebration.

By advancing worker education, leadership, and research, the Labor Center continues to strengthen unions, communities, and opportunities for working people across Iowa.

**Milton L. Jones**  
International President

**Shawn Haggerty**  
International  
Secretary-Treasurer

**Stuart H. Appelbaum**  
Executive Vice President

**David T. Young**  
Executive Vice President

**Lisa D. Pedersen**  
Executive Vice President

**WE ARE AMERICA'S FOOD  
AND RETAIL UNION [UFFW.ORG](https://www.uffw.org)**

United Food and Commercial Workers International Union  
AFL-CIO, CLC, 1775 K Street, NW, Washington, DC 20006-1598

**IBEW LOCAL 405**  
proudly celebrates  
**THE UNIVERSITY OF IOWA  
LABOR CENTER**

on

**75**

years



of making a difference -  
congratulations on this incredible  
milestone.

We're proud to stand alongside  
you in supporting workers and  
strengthening our  
community through our  
shared mission.



**IOWA'S**  
BUILDING TRADES UNIONS

*Building Iowa - Building America*

***THE IOWA STATE BUILDING &  
CONSTRUCTION TRADES COUNCIL IS A  
PROUD PARTNER OF THE LABOR CENTER!  
CHEERS TO 75 YEARS!***

**CEDAR RAPIDS/IOWA CITY BUILDING & CONSTRUCTION TRADES COUNCIL**

**DUBUQUE BUILDING &  
CONSTRUCTION TRADES COUNCIL**

**TRI-CITIES BUILDING &  
CONSTRUCTION TRADES COUNCIL**

**SOUTH CENTRAL BUILDING &  
CONSTRUCTION TRADES COUNCIL**

**CENTRAL IOWA BUILDING &  
CONSTRUCTION TRADES COUNCIL**

**SOUTHEAST IOWA BUILDING &  
CONSTRUCTION TRADES COUNCIL**

**SOUTHWEST IOWA BUILDING &  
CONSTRUCTION TRADES COUNCIL**

**NORTHWEST IOWA BUILDING &  
CONSTRUCTION TRADES COUNCIL**

**WATERLOO BUILDING & CONSTRUCTION  
TRADES COUNCIL**

UNIVERSITY OF IOWA LABOR CENTER  
**CONGRATULATIONS ON 75 YEARS!**



**Congratulations to  
The University of Iowa Labor Center on  
75 years of excellence!**

**Thank you for your longstanding  
commitment to improving the lives of  
working families.**

**Local Union #25  
Plumbers & Pipefitters**

4600 46th Avenue, Rock Island, IL 61201 309-788-4569

**HAPPY 75<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY  
University of Iowa Labor Center!!**

**Matthew T. Lienen**  
Business Manager/FST

Gary Beer - Business Agent  
Ben Carpenter - Business Agent  
Chet DeSmet - Business Agent  
Jake Nelson - Business Agent  
Jason Stomberg - Business Agent  
Brett Swanson, Business Agent



Visit our website @[www.lu25.org](http://www.lu25.org) and....  
like us on Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/Local25>



**Kevin McLaughlin**  
Executive Secretary-Treasurer

**Joel Pogose**  
President

**Tony Guida**  
Vice-President



**Congratulations to the  
University of Iowa Labor Center  
on 75 years of worker education  
and building power for Union  
families!**

**From all of us at SEIU,  
Happy Anniversary!!!**



**Rush & Nicholson**  
Lawyers

*Over 100 Years Combined Experience Helping Injured  
Workers*



*Nate Willems*



*Emily Schott Hood*

We proudly represent:

- Iowans injured at work
- Iowa labor unions
- Iowans whose wages have been stolen at work

*Call Toll Free 877-467-7874*

Congratulations on 75 years of educating workers. The Labor Center has given so many people in the labor movement an opportunity to create networks of friendships and lifelong connections regardless of their bargaining sector and create an environment where we all learn from each other. Local 110 is a proud partner with the Labor Center, they have customized classes and have assisted in training hundreds of stewards at our facilities, and we have also included management in some of our training sessions. It sends a strong message to show if we keep working together, not only can we have respect and dignity in the workplace we can build strong communities.

Thank you to all the staff at the Labor Center past and present we are honored to stand with you in Solidarity.





**PLUMBERS & STEAMFITTERS LOCAL 33  
CONGRATULATES THE LABOR CENTER ON  
75 YEARS OF EXCELLENCE IN EDUCATION!**

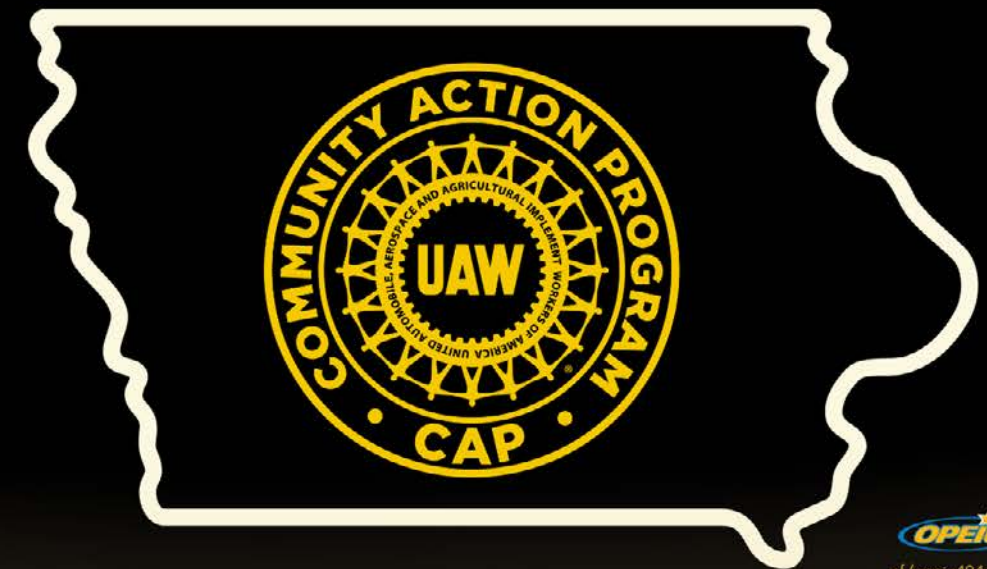
# *Congratulations*

## **75 YEARS OF LABOR EDUCATION**

From all of us at UAW Region 4,  
we congratulate you on 75 years of  
outstanding education and services  
to the labor movement!

*Brandon W. Campbell*

UAW Region 4 Director



  
sf/opeiu494af-cio

# Iowa Laborers-Employers Cooperation & Education Trust

Richie Schmidt Director  
(515) 270-6961  
Rachel Hayes  
Contractor & Fund Services  
(515) 270-6961  
3400 E Euclid Avenue Des  
Moines, IA 50317  
Phone:(515)270-6961  
Fax:(515) 270-0287



William Gerhard  
Business Development Coordinator  
(319) 621-0894  
Ron Kaminski  
Governmental Affairs &  
Labor Relations  
(402) 968-6341

**“Creating Opportunities Through Labor-Management Cooperation”**

### **Great Plains Laborers’ District Council**

Tony Penn  
Business Manager/Secretary Treasurer  
4208 W Partridge Way Unit #2  
Peoria, Illinois 61615  
Phone: (309) 692-8750

### **LiUNA Local 43**

#### **Cedar Rapids, Iowa City**

Dain Brunscheen, Business Manager  
5000 “J” Street SW  
Cedar Rapids, Iowa 52404  
Phone: (319) 366-0859  
Fax: (319) 366-0827

### **LiUNA Local 177**

#### **Des Moines, Fort Dodge, Mason City**

Brad Gezel, Business Manager  
3400 E. Euclid Ave., Suite A  
Des Moines, Iowa 50317  
Phone: (515) 265-2558  
Fax: (515) 265-5665

### **LiUNA Local 309**

#### **Quad Cities**

Brad Long, Business Manager  
2835 7th Avenue  
Rock Island, Illinois 61201  
Phone: (309) 786-5479  
Fax: (309) 786-5486

### **LiUNA Local 538**

#### **Burlington, Ottumwa**

Mike Tuthill, Business Manager  
118 W Main Street, P.O. Box 53  
East Galesburg, Illinois 61430-0053  
Phone: (309) 344-3515  
Fax: (309) 344-3115

### **LiUNA Local 620**

#### **Sioux City, Sioux Falls**

606 N Kiwanis Ave  
Sioux Falls, South Dakota 57104  
Phone: (605) 330-0205  
Fax: (605) 330-0210

### **LiUNA Local 1140 Omaha, Council Bluffs**

Sam Renshaw, Business Manager  
5626 Sorensen Pkwy, #200  
Omaha, Nebraska 68152 Phone:  
(402) 573-7878  
Fax: (402) 573-8746

# Congratulations for 75 Years of a Job Well Done!

Generations of workers built skills from Labor Center education. I know my union is stronger, my plant is stronger, and my community is stronger because of the Labor Center.

ROBERT CALE, FORT MADISON

## 75th Anniversary Celebration Sponsors\*

### **Solidarity (up to \$999)**

AFSCME Local 183  
AFSCME Local 1868 AFL-CIO  
Joe Berry and Helena Worthen  
Dean Bradham  
Christie Brookes  
Cedar Rapids Bank & Trust  
John and Holly Clark  
Suzanne Clark  
Robin Clark-Bennett  
Ryan Drew  
Megan Graham  
Iron Workers Local 67  
Paul Iversen  
Jeff & Amber Hartford  
Jerry Kearns  
Janice K. Laue  
LiUNA Laborers’ Local 43  
Paula Martinez  
Susan McAllister  
Jason McClitis  
Northwest Iowa Building Trades Sioux City, IA  
Quad City Federation of Labor  
Blake Rupe  
Jason Shanks  
SMART Local 91  
South Central Iowa Federation of Labor, AFL-CIO  
Donald Taylor  
United Association of Plumbers and Pipefitters  
USW Local 310  
USW Local 444L  
Lea VanderVelde  
Angela Ward

### **Bread & Roses (\$1,000–\$4,999)**

Blake & Uhlig, P.A.  
Cedar Rapids & Iowa City Building Trades Council  
Bruce Clark and Richard Alper  
Sarah Clark  
Communications Workers of America District 7  
DeBoer & Associates  
Great Plains Laborers’ District Council  
Samantha Groark and Andy Roberts  
IBEW Local 13  
IBEW Local 22  
Iowa Alliance for Retired Americans  
Iowa Labor History Society  
Roofers & Waterproofers Local 182  
Rush & Nicholson PLC  
RWDSU Local 110  
Dennis M. Sansone  
The Segal Company (Midwest), INC  
SMART Local 263  
UA Plumbers and Pipefitters Local 25  
UAW Local 94  
UFCW Local 617  
USW Local 105  
Wellmark Blue Cross/Blue Shield of Iowa

### **Dignity (\$5,000–\$9,999)**

Cedar Rapids Local Union Community Charities  
Laborers-Employers Cooperation & Education Trust  
SEIU Healthcare Minnesota & Iowa  
Smith & McElwain Law  
South Central Iowa Building Trades Council  
UA Plumbers and Pipefitters Local 125  
UAW Region 4 Retired Workers’ Council  
UFCW International Union  
United Steelworkers (District 11)

### **Worker Justice (\$10,000 +)**

Constance Smith  
Central Iowa Building & Construction Trades Council  
IBEW Local 347  
IBEW Local 405  
Iowa State Building & Construction Trades Council  
Mid-America Carpenters Regional Council  
UA Plumbers and Pipefitters Local 33  
UAW Region 4

\*Donations Received Since December 2025



**Thank You for Helping  
Protect and Empower  
Workers through  
Education!**



1953 Labor Short Course



1990 Short Course



1959 URW Institute



2002 CWA Advanced Leadership



1964 Labor Short Course



2025 Short Course



Sept 1969 CWA



June 1970 AFGE

### Contact Us:



University of Iowa Labor Center  
100 BioVentures Center, Room W130  
Iowa City, IA 52242 – 5000



[labor-center@uiowa.edu](mailto:labor-center@uiowa.edu)



319-335-4144

### Visit Us Online:



[laborcenter.uiowa.edu](http://laborcenter.uiowa.edu)

### Support Our Programming:

