



EDUCATING IOWA WORKERS – A PROMISE THAT MUST BE KEPT

**Thousands of Iowans are taking action to save the University of Iowa Labor Center.
What's at stake for Iowa's economy and jobs? What's the path forward?**

*For more information about the Save Our Labor Center Coalition, visit our website at www.saveourlaborcenter.com,
like us on Facebook @SaveOurLaborCenter, and follow us on Twitter @SavetheCenter*

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SAVE OUR LABOR CENTER: WHAT'S AT STAKE?

Iowa's future depends on workers' access to education and high-quality jobs.

- Many Iowa communities are struggling with changes in the economy, a lack of family-supporting jobs, and population loss.
- Meanwhile, employers and policymakers cite high demand for skilled workers and a need to prepare more Iowans for jobs in construction, advanced manufacturing, and other growing fields.
- **There is bipartisan consensus that expanding worker access to education is a critical priority.** The state's current "Future Ready Iowa Initiative" focuses on worker education as essential for improving job quality and closing opportunity gaps.

The UI Labor Center is Iowa's trusted source for statewide worker education & research.

- Since 1951, the UI Labor Center has represented our public university's commitment to working Iowans as part of its mission.
- In FY2018 alone, the Labor Center conducted statewide education that reached 2,556 workers from 61 Iowa counties. Topics included health and safety, combating harassment, workers' compensation, family medical leave, and many more.
- The Center's renowned labor oral history project has documented life histories of over 1,200 Iowans and won numerous awards—most recently a \$195,000 Nat'l Endowment for Humanities grant.
- The Center also boosts student success through unique classes, research, and community-engaged learning opportunities that allow students to apply studies to real-world problems.

Defunding the Labor Center saves no money and harms the state - taxpayers say NO!

- In July 2018, University of Iowa President Harreld unexpectedly announced plans to completely defund the Labor Center and shift all its existing UI funding to the budget of the law school.
- The decision was made without any input from staff, students, faculty, or Iowa stakeholders impacted by this decision.
- Thousands of Iowa taxpayers, students and parents who pay tuition, and UI alumni have joined together to call on UI administrators to reverse this harmful decision and restore funds.

Did you Know?
The Labor Center was awarded a \$125,000 Iowa Workforce Development grant in December 2018 to develop a new pre-apprentice program to link 200 Iowans to high-quality skilled jobs.



OUR UNIVERSITY, OUR LABOR CENTER



"I am proud that our university has funded the Labor Center as a promise to Iowa's workers. I would feel ashamed if the university let this amazing organization go. It is immeasurably beneficial to our university, our community, and Iowa's workers."

Lauryn Schnack, 3rd Year UI Undergraduate

"My two years as a graduate assistant at the Iowa Labor Center were an invaluable part of my legal education at the University of Iowa... I was able to improve my advocacy skills and be better prepared to be a true counselor at law for my clients post-graduation."

Michael Hilkin, JD, UI College of Law 2009



"My personal experience with the Labor Center goes back over ten years and has been nothing but positive. It's a place where the working poor, the socially marginalized, can acquire some knowledge and skills and find expert advice in a rapidly changing economic and legal environment. The Labor Center serves our state and our communities well."

Father Rudy Juarez, St. Patrick's Church, Iowa City

"The Labor Center is a major recipient of nationally-competitive grants, which have totaled some \$950,000 since 2002. These attest to the Labor Center's outstanding role in the research mission of the university."

Professor Elizabeth Heineman, UI Department of History



"The Labor Center has given me and workers across the state the education we need to improve the safety and quality of our jobs. Most of us don't have the luxury of becoming full-time students. We count on the Labor Center to be a bridge that connects us with education that matters to us. Keep the funding in place for this important resource."

Rusty McCuen, IBEW Local 55, Des Moines

ACROSS IOWA, ONE CLEAR MESSAGE

July 10, 2018 – UI President Harreld announces plans to defund & close the Labor Center

July 11 – Workers, faith leaders, faculty, students form **Save Our Labor Center coalition**, hold press event calling for restored funding

August 14–September 10 over 600 Iowans attend public hearings in 7 cities (Des Moines, Cedar Rapids, Bettendorf, Sioux City, Burlington, Cedar Falls, Iowa City) in support of the Labor Center.

September 11 – UI Faculty Senate issues **Statement on Center and Institute Closures**, on lack of faculty input in closures

September 13 – Save Our Labor Center members **pack the Board of Regents meeting** to speak against the closure, **deliver report of public hearings**, and **turn in 6,000 signatures**

October 17 – UI students rally to announce that **20 student-led organizations passed resolutions** in support of Labor Center

October 30 – UI Student Government passes **Resolution Calling for Continued Support of the UI Labor Center**

December 3 – Workers, students, parents, faculty, alumni, faith, civil rights, & elected leaders gather for **Labor Center Statewide Summit: The Time is Now**

SAVING OUR LABOR CENTER FOR IOWA'S FUTURE

Workers, students, faculty, staff, & community members are already doing their part to Save Our Labor Center.

In less than six months, Labor Center staff and partners on and off campus have worked together to craft a plan for maintaining operations while replacing over half the Center's existing UI funding.

- Workers who attend Labor Center classes have stepped forward to support targeted increases to fees and registrations.
- Center staff have committed to search aggressively for additional grant funding, already yielding a new \$10,000 UI Community Impact grant and a new \$125,000 Iowa Workforce Development contract for preapprentice education (in addition to the Center's existing \$195,000 two-year federal NEH grant).
- UI faculty have committed to work with Center staff on developing new certificate programs to fill unmet student needs and contribute another new ingredient to the Center's budget.
- Tuition-paying students have communicated clearly through a formally adopted UI Student Government resolution that they want UI administrators to continue funding the Labor Center.



UI & state leaders must do their part too. Cutting the Regents' budget for worker education to \$0 doesn't reflect Iowa priorities.

- The Labor Center's previous \$557,000 annual General Education Fund allocation was a *tiny fraction of 1% (0.0001)* of the University of Iowa's FY2019 \$4.1 billion in revenues. UI and state leaders must partner with Iowans to find a way to restore and expand on this minimal commitment into the future.
- UI's FY2019 budget includes state economic development appropriations totaling \$3,259,279¹, allocated from the "Skilled Worker and Job Creation Fund" established by the legislature in 2013. None of this money currently funds worker education in the Regents system.

Solutions are at hand, but time is running out.

- Labor Center staff furloughs could begin in April. This is a man-made crisis that UI and state leaders could reverse today. It's time for state and university leaders to respond to the thousands of taxpayers, tuition payers, and alumni who have directed their university to restore funding to the Labor Center.
- UI administrators, Regents, and state leaders must meet Iowans in the middle and commit the modest, recurring funding needed to maintain this essential state resource.

¹ University of Iowa FY 2019 Final Operating Budget, available at <https://fmb.fo.uiowa.edu>