



A UNIQUE EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITY

Now in its tenth year, the Minnesota Union Leadership Program helps unions develop and strengthen leaders, equipping participants with the knowledge and skills to address the challenges facing the labor movement.

Through six in-depth sessions scheduled over nine months, participants study the labor movement—past, present, and future—while engaging in critical thinking about how workers succeed in building a more just and equitable society. Emerging and established union leaders build relationships and network with their fellow class members as well as others from the labor movement, learning from each other’s experiences and knowledge.

The Labor Education Service at the University of Minnesota coordinates and leads the training. Experienced and knowledgeable speakers from throughout the labor movement and its allied community are included as presenters and panel members. Readings and other course materials are made available to participants in advance of each session.

Upon successful completion of the program, each participant receives a leadership certificate. We conclude the program with a celebration that recognizes the achievement of the completing participants and welcomes their family, members of their sponsoring organizations, and others from the labor community.

The Minnesota Union Leadership Program is offered by the Labor Education Service in cooperation with the Minnesota AFL-CIO.



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Center for Human Resources & Labor Studies
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Labor Education Service
UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA
Driven to DiscoverSM

Minnesota Union Leadership Program

An innovative educational series designed to foster a deeper understanding of the critical issues facing working people in Minnesota.



“MULP was a powerful tool for me to see the labor movement in a different light and empower me to try to make change.”

— Christa Mello, President, UNITE HERE! 17

“This was a wonderful experience. I think the most important part was hearing other stories of success and struggle.”

— Kenneth Garnier, AFSCME Local 34, AFSCME Council 5 Executive Board

“We learn from each other’s successes and each other’s mistakes. The program really strengthened my knowledge of unions and my role in the labor movement.”

— Mary Kunesch-Podein, Robbinsdale Federation of Teachers, Minnesota House of Representatives, 41B

“MULP inspired me, taught me about unity, strengthened my knowledge of unions and my role in the labor movement. I have been given some great ideas and met some wonderful friends - all of them!”

— Nasser Nur, Organizer, Teamsters 320

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2019-20

AGENDA

Sessions 1 & 2: October 23 – 25, 2019

1. Workers, Unions, Legacy, Lessons

The program begins with an examination of labor history, including the forces and events that have influenced the current U.S. labor movement. We look at law, culture, and institutional structures that have shaped and restricted the activities of workers who pursue economic and social justice, and discuss lessons from labor history that can be applied to today's challenges.

2. Workers and the Economy

Why have globalization and our economic practices resulted in an alarming political crisis, increased inequality, and deepened structural injustice related to race and gender? This class explores the roots of our capitalist economic system and how changes over the last 50 years have aggressively altered the balance of power between workers and employers. Together, we think creatively about ideas and initiatives that move us toward a more equitable system.

Session 3: December 5, 2019

Labor and Social Change

What role should labor play in movements for social change? This class examines historical and contemporary examples of collaborations between labor and other social movements. Participants consider the value of building a broad, intersectional labor movement that seeks to address the multitude of injustices that workers and communities face.



The program starts at Ruttger's Bay Lake Lodge near Brainerd where participants build relationships and engage the topics of the first two sessions. The remaining four sessions take place in Room 215 of the Humphrey School of Public Affairs on the West Bank of the University of Minnesota. The Humphrey sessions run from 8:30am to 4:30pm.

Session 4: January 30, 2020

Unions and Workers in the Public Eye

Issues surrounding the media, news and truth have changed drastically. Where do workers fit? This class dives into how we communicate, exploring "frames" and the power of narrative to create meaning and influence values. Looking at traditional and new media, we uncover how dominant narratives support entrenched power and how competing narratives change the discussion.

Session 5: March 19, 2019

Building Member Power

This session examines different models for increasing member engagement and building union capacity. The class is equally grounded in research about effective organizing and field experience from organizers. Participants will be challenged to break the tendency to make the union a "third party" by embracing approaches that build member power.



Session 6: May 14, 2020

Organizational Change and Leadership

We close the program by addressing how to renew unions using practices that effect positive change in the workplace and society. Exploring ways to become transformational leaders within a global labor movement, we consider how unions can address race, gender, LGBTQ, and class issues. The final session concludes with a graduation ceremony.



About LES

The Labor Education Service (LES) at the University of Minnesota is the only educational program in the state focused specifically on the needs of workers and their organizations. Since 1951, LES has provided training to hundreds of unions and thousands of workers. We also offer a range of video and other media services.

HOW TO APPLY

Individuals must be sponsored by their labor union or a related organization to participate in the program. Potential participants need to complete an application, and each sponsoring organization must provide a statement of support acknowledging the time commitment for the participant and agreeing to fund the cost of tuition.

Participants are expected to attend all six sessions of the program and must attend a minimum of five sessions to complete the program and earn a certificate.

Selection Considerations

- ▶ Enrollment is limited to ensure a high-quality educational experience.
- ▶ No more than three individuals should apply from any single local union or related organization.
- ▶ People of color, women, LGBTQ people, and those under the age of 35 are strongly encouraged to apply.

Application materials and information are available on the LES website at: <https://z.umn.edu/LES-Home>

DEADLINE TO APPLY

July 12, 2019

Applications must be faxed, emailed, or postmarked by this date.

COST

Tuition is \$1550, due upon acceptance to the program. The fee includes lodging for two nights and meals at Ruttger's Bay Lake Lodge; parking, light breakfast, lunch, and snacks at the Humphrey sessions; and all program materials and instruction.

CONTACT US

Please call or e-mail us with any questions about this program.

612-624-5020 • les@umn.edu