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Dear HELU Supporter,

Welcome! We're excited to bring you news from a busy June building HELU's wall-to-wall, coast-to-coast higher ed labor movement. Among our new organizational members of HELU coming on board this June: The Graduate Labor Organization (GLO) of graduate student employees at Brown University; National Writers Union; Scholars for a New Deal for Higher Education; and United Campus Workers of Georgia, a wall-to-wall union made up of 26 different public colleges and universities within the University System of Georgia.

HELU is growing. Want to help shape the future of higher ed? Talk to your local union and [bring them into the movement](#). And look out for our August 1st membership outreach event: We Can't Do It Alone: Building Power Through HELU! (Details coming soon...)

Read on to learn more about the growing higher ed labor movement, including HELU's summer events; dispatches from Higher Ed For All in Connecticut and the Rutgers Adjuncts' Union; and how to take actions in solidarity with higher ed worker fights across the country.

Higher Ed For All Takes the Offensive

Recent [events in Connecticut highlight the urgency](#) of our current fight over higher education and the need to tie these issues into one offensive strategy. When a Democratic governor, in one of the wealthiest states with a budget

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ideology...

The situation in Connecticut is in line with cuts and reallocations now proposed in West Virginia and Florida, to name two prominent examples. In all these fights, campus workers (faculty, staff, students, service providers) have reduced leverage after decades of adjunctification, attrition, contingent contracts, and outsourcing. Whether the immediate fight concerns student debt, precarious exploitative employment, academic freedom, attacks on tenure, institutional finance, real estate development, or board appointments, we are at a disadvantage unless we can organize beyond our campuses and go on the offensive to gain some control over allocating the money at campus, state, and federal levels... [Continue reading on our website.](#)

Upcoming HELU Event Series: Staff United Building Fighting Unions to Take On Management

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in a higher education or university healthcare context? Join us for a HELU-sponsored summer book discussion group for higher ed staff union members, organizers, and leaders.

Higher ed staff of all types are facing understaffing, increased workloads without compensation, unsafe working conditions, and an overall lack of respect in our workplaces. To address these multi-faceted and ever-worsening conditions, we must build fighting unions that are focused on member power and union democracy and are capable of putting the necessary pressure on management to demand the respect and workplaces we deserve.

Join us in reading and discussing *Democracy is Power: Rebuilding Unions from the Bottom Up* by Mike Parker and Martha Gruelle. You can [purchase the book or download a free PDF here](#).

Four 1.5-hour online sessions will be facilitated by members, leaders and organizers of staff unions from all over the United States. We will meet on **July 13 & 27 and August 10 & 24 from 7:30-9:00 PM EST.**

[Register Now](#)

Centering Contingent Faculty Pays off Big in Historic Rutgers Contract Victory

Dispatch from Bryan Sacks, VP of the Adjuncts' Union at Rutgers (PTLFC-AAUP-AFT)

Adjuncts at Rutgers University this spring won a historic contract during a campaign undertaken in unison with all other instructional faculty, including full-time faculty, grad workers, clinical faculty and adjuncts. When management proved intransigent, refusing to budget on key union proposals, all of the faculty unions first took part in a collective strike authorization vote and then a five-day strike.

The result was dramatic. The strike accelerated the pace of negotiations and in just a few weeks' time, 98% of unionized faculty voted to accept a new

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a single four-year bargaining cycle, we won more than 20 years of typical salary gains. Adjuncts also won multi-semester and multi-year appointments—a first—as well as a variety of other important gains, as did their full-time non-tenure track colleagues and grad workers. (For more details about this campaign, see [Bryan Sacks' presentation](#) from HELU's first Confronting Contingency event of the summer, and [this Labor Notes article](#).)

Many of the strategies that created a tailwind for Rutgers adjuncts are replicable elsewhere. Nationally, adjuncts need a plan we all can have sufficient confidence in, that both acknowledges the historical (and current) obstacles to ending the exploitation of academic labor, and which offers a flexible, multi-front, short-, medium-, and long-term plan for addressing them with benchmarks for checking our progress along the way. HELU's summer series on Confronting Contingency promises to be a space where this sort of strategizing can germinate.

Confronting Contingency: The Key to Understanding the Crisis in Higher Education

On June 20th, nearly 200 people from every academic position within higher ed, joined a Zoom call to center contingency in HELU's wall-to-wall, coast-to-coast campaign. Participants hailed from R-1, community, private and state colleges and universities all across the country to join HELU for our first Confronting Contingency event of the summer: *Strategies to Abolish Faculty Contingency*.

Check out [the recording of the event on our YouTube channel!](#)

Our next *HELU: Confronting Contingency* event will take place on July 20th.

JULY 20th: Register Now

Want to get more involved? We need organizers to help us confront contingency this summer. Sign up to [join HELU's Summer 2023 Taskforce on](#)

Solidarity Asks

Solidarity Asks weave a network of mutual aid across workers in higher ed. Take action now to build national solidarity and show your support for higher ed workers of all kinds organizing around the country. Add your name, make a donation, get connected:

- [Sign the petition to call for Goldsmiths University \(UK\) to act](#) on the unjust treatment of Roberto Mozzachiodi, a leading figure in the fight against casualisation
- [Sign the petition to defend Academic Freedom](#) at Palm Beach Atlantic University

Does your union/org need help? Send your solidarity ask to info@higheredlaborunited.org.

Higher Ed Labor In The News

- U. Michigan Grad Workers on Strike for a Living Wage, [allege that the university pressured faculty to submit falsified grades](#)
 - Pushed to the edge by intense exploitation and the pandemic, [Part Time Faculty Are Increasingly Organizing](#)
 - Working to Focus [Federal Higher Ed Policy Toward the Public Good](#)
 - [At Rutgers, A Breakthrough in Solidarity](#) among full-time faculty, part-time faculty, and grad workers produces an historic strike and big gains
 - Harvard is a knowledge factory, and [Six Thousand Non-Tenure Track Faculty Are Leading their Own Organizing Campaign](#)
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Get Involved in HELU!

Are you inspired by the pace-setting organizing HELU member unions and allies are leading? Get your union involved in HELU today!

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sure you make it to our next General Meeting. [Contact us](#) to receive the calendar invite and Zoom link.

- If your union has not yet formally joined HELU as a member and is interested in getting more involved, [contact us](#). And look out for our August 1st membership outreach event: ***We Can't Do It Alone: Building Power Through HELU!*** More info coming soon...
- If you are an individual who does not have a union or worker organization through which to be involved in HELU, [sign up for At-Large membership today](#).

And don't forget to keep an eye out for more updates and opportunities to support higher ed labor organizing.



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