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March 2025 HELU Chair's Message – Get Involved in April 8 "Kill the Cuts!" Actions

On April 8, HELU is coordinating the [Kill the Cuts day of action](#) with [Labor for Higher Education](#). More than 40 local cross-union labor coalitions are organizing rallies and public events around the country. These events pressure college and university administrations and federal policymakers to block cuts to federal research funding and to stop holding our campuses hostage for the right-wing political agenda of attacking students, workers, and our healthcare and education systems.

More information can be found at the [Kill the Cuts website](#). Unions not yet involved in an event should reach out to [Ian](#) and [Tracy](#) to begin the event planning process. We have a fully-developed toolkit – with messaging, graphics, and event/rally ideas – to make the planning process as easy as possible.

[Learn more about April 8 Kill the Cuts Actions](#)

Two Events on April 1

[National Planning Call for April 8 Actions](#)

6pm ET/5pm CT/4pm MT/3pm PT

On Tuesday, April 8, higher ed workers across the country will stand up and demand NO cuts to education and life-saving research. On April 1,

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author and activist Naomi Klein and Rev. Dr. Liz Theoharis, cochair of the Poor People's Campaign. We will also be joined by leaders from the UAW, AAUP, AFT, Higher Ed Labor United, and the Federal Workers.

Register for April 1 – National Planning Call for April 8 Actions

[How the Department of Education's Destruction Impacts Higher Ed](#)

8pm ET/7pm CT/6pm MT/5pm PT on Zoom

The U.S. Department of Education provides vital services and support, but its impacts aren't always clear. Join us on April 1 to discuss what higher education loses when this essential agency is destroyed and how we can respond collectively. We will provide details on organizing next steps.

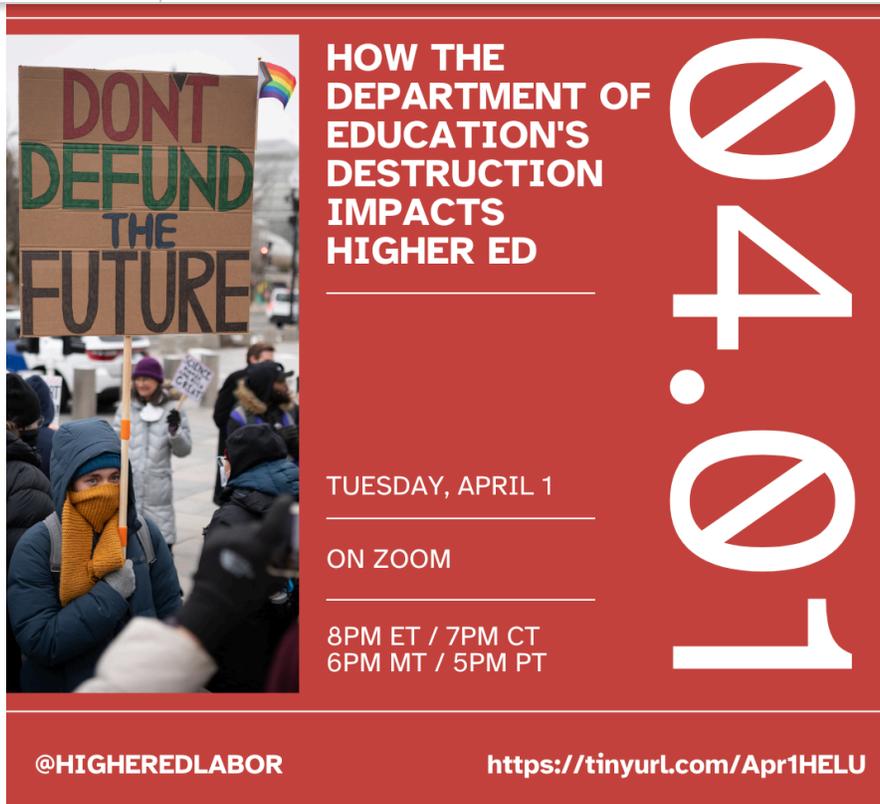
With: Mia McIver, AAUP; Sheria Smith, AFGE; Astra Taylor, Debt Collective

Register for April 1 Dept of Ed Call

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HOW THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION'S DESTRUCTION IMPACTS HIGHER ED

TUESDAY, APRIL 1

ON ZOOM

8PM ET / 7PM CT
6PM MT / 5PM PT

@HIGHEREDLABOR <https://tinyurl.com/Apr1HELU>

April 17

[National Day of Action for Higher Education](#)

April 17, 2025 – Nationwide Locations and Online

Universities in the United States are under conservative and neoliberal attack. The Trump administration has promised to intensify the assault on higher education. In this Jubilee School discussion, leading Argentine and Brazilian scholar-activists that have fought to defend their public universities from the Milei and Bolsonaro regimes will share lessons on how to defend higher education against fascist attacks. [Learn more and register for a 4/17 event here.](#)

Solidarity Asks

- [SEIU Action Tomorrow \(April 1\)! Standing with and for our members](#)
- [Reinstate Ranjani Srinivasan & Protect International Students and Higher Education Now](#)
- [Support Wellesley Academic Workers on Strike](#)

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HELU has become a hub for organizing around the country. We depend on our delegates to spread this organizing from one union to another. It takes many forms, from campus labor coalitions (see message from Penn), state-level legislative campaigns (see Oregon), to rallies and forums (see UUP Binghamton and Rutgers), and labor-intensive discussions at the grassroots (see the Contingency Task Force items). We are definitely building the plane as we fly it at HELU. Send in what you see or do: everything matters (see Student Workers report by Maya Cruz).

– From Helena Worthen, Co-Chair with Evan Bowman, HELU Media/Comms

From the HELU Blog:

[Attacks on science energize and engage union members](#)

At Rutgers, we're seeing (unsurprisingly) a massive upsurge in engagement from our member in the STEM fields (especially our faculty). When federal science funding has been threatened, for example through the cap on indirect costs, and the slashing of funding to areas deemed by Trump and Musk to be "too woke," scientists know that the future of the totality of scientific research is threatened... [Read more.](#)

[Forming a coalition in Oregon to raise state funding for higher ed](#)

Chronic underfunding of our public institutions has and continues to degrade the ability to perform our work. Therefore, organizing has begun for an in-person summit in summer 2025 to bring union pressure to make a change... [Read more.](#)

[Resisting Together: Organizing to Defend Higher Education in Upstate New York](#)

With aggressive attacks from the Trump administration targeting federal research funding, student aid, and even the very existence of the Department of Education, faculty and students alike are facing unprecedented challenges. Here in upstate New York, United University Professions (UUP) members at Binghamton University have been organizing to push back... [Read more.](#)



[Student Workers and Student Rights: The Argument for Workers' Rights Education in Public High Schools](#)

The Harry Bridges Center for Labor Studies' latest research report, "The State of the Student Worker – University of Washington," highlights the experiences of student workers... Alongside other findings such as where and why students work and how students balance work and school, we made six recommendations to both Washington state and the University of Washington, including a call to mandate workers rights' education in public high schools, following the recent establishment of California's Workplace Readiness Week through AB 800... [Read more.](#)

[Solidarity and Democracy: The problem of contingency.](#)

Our movement won't achieve its "wall-to-wall and coast-to-coast" vision by brushing the resentment and bitterness invisibility causes under the rug of solidarity. In that spirit, we shared stories of marginalization and contempt... And then we strategized how to overcome the splintering that these experiences motivate... [Read more.](#)

["For Union Democracy: Prioritize the Precarious"](#)

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educators across ranks, from tenured and tenure-track faculty to graduate students, adjunct and full-time contingent faculty... [Read more](#).

Want to support our work? Make a contribution.

We invite you to support HELU's work by making a direct [financial contribution](#). While HELU's main source of income is solidarity pledges from member organizations, these funds from individuals help us to grow capacity as we work to align the higher ed labor movement.

[Contribute to HELU](#)



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