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May 2025 HELU Chair's Message

From Levin Kim, HELU Chair

On Thursday, May 22, HELU brought together labor leaders from around the U.S., elected officials, and representatives of major think tanks together for the launch of [HELU's Federal Policy Agenda](#). Speakers included Senator Ed Markey, AAUP President Todd Wolfson, IFO President and HELU Politics & Policy Co-Chair Jenna Chernega, and many others. As HELU's Federal Policy Agenda makes clear, we aren't just fighting *against* Trump – we're also offering a positive vision for the future.

This is just the beginning of our work towards a better version of U.S. higher education that genuinely serves the public good. We need HELU member organizations and their delegates to dive into this work and get involved in the fight.

Heavy downpours may have forced us inside on May 22 in D.C., but they could not dampen our core message: **even under massive attacks, higher ed labor can set the agenda for the future of our sector.**

[Learn more and watch the May 22 Launch Recording](#)

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Solidarity Asks

- [Send a Letter: Fair Contract for Non-Tenure Track Faculty at the University of San Diego](#)
- [Demand Action Against The Most Dangerous Higher Ed Bill in History](#)
- [Attend the EWOC Unite & Win Organizing Conference, June 27-29, 2025 in Detroit, MI](#)
- [Donate: UR Grad Labor Union Strike and Hardship Fund](#)

From the HELU Blog:

[Florida: How United Faculty of Florida organizers and allies fight the takeover](#)

What follows is a wide-ranging discussion lightly edited from [the April 25, 2025 episode of Toby Miller's Cultural Studies podcast](#). In it, organizers from United Faculty of Florida (UFF) take us into the concrete day to day dilemmas of faculty who care about their students' learning and the integrity of critical research. At the same time, their supervisors repeatedly demand that they do things that violate the core values of academic freedom. ... [Read more](#).

Higher Ed Labor in the News

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- [Faculty Rally Nationwide for Free Speech, Free Tuition, and to Free Detained Students](#) – Labor Notes
- [Higher ed is seeing a surge in unionizing efforts. Nazareth staffers are the latest to vote 'Yes'](#) – WXXI News NPR
- [Western New Mexico University faculty unionize with 75% support](#) – Silver City Daily Press

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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