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[September 2025 HELU Chair's Message](#)

From Levin Kim, HELU Chair and member of UAW 4121, student workers, researchers and postdocs at the University of Washington

HELU has a unique opportunity to strengthen locals and foster new leaders – crucial to building a powerful higher ed labor movement that can meet the many crises of this moment. Interested in getting your union involved in regional coalitions? Interested in building power for a progressive federal policy agenda on higher ed? [Read more and find information on how to get involved in HELU campaigns.](#)

[Read more and get involved](#)

September's Wall to Wall and Coast to Coast Report goes to the Southern Tier: Florida, Louisiana, and California, plus a success story in Oregon, a campaign to protect international campus workers, a lawsuit, labor education programs designed for today, and HELU's upcoming leadership election.

– Helena Worthen, Co-Chair, HELU Media & Communications Committee

From the HELU Blog:

[Louisiana Provides a Preemptive Roadmap for the New War on Academic Freedom](#)

What would higher education look like if universities started proactively dismantling academic freedom, without waiting for a federal mandate?

[The International Campus Workers Protections Campaign: The fight against fear](#)

HELU is coordinating [a national effort](#) among campus organizers to build strategic, long-term resistance to the escalating federal attacks on international students and workers. We're organizing around shared demands for our institutions through coordinated, escalating action. [Read more.](#)

[Worker Power Defeats Plan for Program Eliminations and Tenure-Track Layoffs at the University of Oregon](#)

Amidst devastating cuts across higher ed, our faculty union at the University of Oregon saw a victory in averting a summertime plan by our administration to eliminate jobs and degree programs. We fought to prevent any layoffs or program closures, and rejected the administration's attempts to exploit divisions among workers. [Read more.](#)

[San Diego Adjunct Faculty Association at Labor Day March](#)

Over 10,000 people marched through downtown San Diego on Labor Day, with demonstrators calling for stronger labor protections and government investment in essential services. [Read more.](#)

[You are the best messenger: How HELU delegates can bring it to our unions](#)

Labor is one the most trusted messengers on political and economic issues for members and working-class voters outside of union membership. [Read more.](#)

[For your reading pleasure: The 09.16 UC Lawsuit against Trump and others](#)

On September 16, 20 unions representing workers in the University of California system filed a [123-page lawsuit](#) against 48 defendants, starting with President Trump and Attorney General Pam Bondi, in the U.S. District Court for the Northern District of California. [Read more.](#)

solidarity with workers on a larger national or regional basis, to drive participation in a particular action or campaign that supports higher ed workers. To submit a solidarity ask, please [complete this form](#).

- [Sign on: Support Faculty at the University of Illinois Chicago Library](#)
- [Tell the UW System Board of Regents: Workers Need Union Recognition](#)
- [Reinstate Dr. Tom Alter | Defend Free Speech at All Universities](#)
- [Submit a Comment to DHS in Support of International Scholars](#)
- [Fight Cuts, Defend Higher Education at the University of Oregon](#)

Upcoming Events

- October 6 — [Webinar: Politicizing Accreditation in the South and Beyond: The Commission for Public Higher Education](#)
- October 16 — [HELU Open House](#)
- October 29 — [Skeleton Crews at Academic Medical Centers: The Dangerous Results of Bare-Bones Funding](#)

HIGHER ED LABOR UNITED

SKELETON CREWS AT ACADEMIC MEDICAL CENTERS

THE DANGEROUS RESULTS OF BARE-BONES FUNDING

At a time when jobs, security, our hospitals, and the health of the American People are put in danger, labor stepped in and has led campaigns to save government-funded health programs and safeguard the interests of patients and workers. Join HELU organizers to think through the current situation while we plan to fight back and push for a healthcare system that works for all.



WEDNESDAY
OCT 29

7:30PM ET
6:30PM CT
5:30PM MT
4:30PM PT

On Zoom

- November 5 – [Library Workers Organizing Meeting & Strategy Session](#)

HELU Elections Nov 20 at the General Assembly: Run for Office!

At the HELU General Assembly on November 20, 2025, HELU delegates will elect new Officers and Steering Committee. All HELU Officer and Steering Committee roles are up for election. The term of the new leadership will be January 2026 until January 2028. [Read more.](#)

Higher Ed Labor in the News

[Trump](#) – Truthout

- [Teamsters Win University of Minnesota Strike, With Help from Farm Aid](#) – Labor Notes
- [FIU's ICE Collaboration Undermines University's Mission, Faculty Say](#) – Prism
- ['Defend Academic Freedom': Faculty Criticize Columbia's Deal with the Trump Administration on First Day of Classes](#) – Columbia Spectator
- [Broad Coalition of Faculty, Staff, Students, and Unions Unite to Defend University of California System From Trump-Vance Administration Assault](#) – Democracy Forward
- [The University of Maine Must Listen to Their Graduate Workers Now More Than Ever](#) – The Maine Campus
- [CFA Warns of Potential \\$100,000 Fee for H-1B Visa Holders, Advises Against International Travel](#) – Coyote Chronicle
- [Non-tenure Track Faculty 'Outraged' by University Decision to End Bargaining, Invoke Religious Exemption](#) – LA Loyolan

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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