



Labor Education NEWS

S U M M E R - F A L L 2 0 1 1

In this Issue

•••• PAGE 2 ••••

US-MEXICO
MEETINGAPALA
CONVENTION

•••• PAGE 3 ••••

LABOR STUDIES
GRADUATESMIGUEL CONTRERAS
LEARNING COMPLEX

•••• PAGE 4 ••••

LABOR CENTER
BANQUETNARRO APPOINTED
TO CRA

•••• PAGE 5 ••••

BLACK WORKER
CENTERCA CONSTRUCTION
ACADEMY

•••• PAGE 6 ••••

JULIE SU

WORKERS
MEMORIAL DAY

•••• PAGE 7 ••••

NEW STAFF
AND INTERNS

Undocumented and Unafraid

In June the UCLA Labor Center's Dream Resource Center (DRC) launched Dream Summer, a national internship program for Dream Act student leaders, in California, Miami, Washington, DC, Phoenix, and New York. This is the first program of its kind giving Dream Act student leaders the opportunity to improve their leadership skills within social-justice organizations. Over one hundred students were placed at various organizations for ten weeks to engage in research, education, and outreach activities.



Rev. James Lawson Jr. speaks to Dream Summer interns

Dream Summer began with a three-day training, including a workshop facilitated by civil rights leader Rev. James Lawson Jr., who made the connection between the racial injustices of the 1960s and the current injustices faced by the immigrant community. Students participated in workshops on how to build a national campaign and how to finance an organization. Participants also had the opportunity to meet other students from all over the United States to strengthen their networks and connections.

Dream Summer is supported by United We Dream, a national network of immigrant youth; and dozens of funders, including

the Ford, Carnegie, Marguerite Casey, New World, Rosenberg, and Surdna foundations. Planning has already begun for Dream Summer 2012.

The DRC also is finishing the upcoming publication, *Undocumented and Unafraid: Tam Tran, Cinthya Felix, and the Immigrant Youth Movement*. "Undocumented and unafraid" is a phrase used by courageous undocumented students who step out of the shadows and publicly announce their immigration status.

This publication is dedicated to two undocumented student activists and pioneers of the immigrant youth movement, Tam Tran and Cinthya Felix, who tragically passed away on May 15, 2010, after a fatal car accident. Both women were UCLA alumnae and among the first undocumented students to enter graduate school. Tam was a PhD student at Brown University, while Cinthya was working toward her master's of public health at Columbia University.

Family, close friends, and colleagues all contributed their memories of Tam and Cinthya. Students, scholars, and artists also collaborated to capture the voices and energy of this immigrant rights movement led by young people. The book, produced with support from the Ford Foundation, is designed as an educational tool to inspire others to raise their voices in the struggle for humane immigrant rights.



Cinthya Felix and Tam Tran

Institute for Transnational Social Change

Leaders from labor movements in Mexico and the United States gathered in July for a binational meeting hosted by the Institute for Transnational Social Change, at the Downtown Labor Center. This was the third annual meeting with about forty activists, academics, and advocates focused on this year's meeting title, *Transnational Perspectives on the Future of Labor: Building on the Legacy of Cross-border Labor Solidarity*.

María Elena Durazo, executive secretary-treasurer of the Los Angeles County Federation of Labor, expressed the urgent need to share experiences between unions on both sides of the border about organizing workers and confronting problems together: "We've seen attacks against miners in Mexico. We've made trips to Mexico and met with the Mexican government, but to be more effective, we need to have a more consistent, formal connection between unions at the national level." The other participants from worker advocacy organizations in the United States and

independent unions in Mexico echoed those sentiments.

Among the participating unions from Mexico were the Mexican Miners Union, Electrical Workers Union (SME), the Workers Authentic Front (FAT), and Local 9 of Mexico's National Teachers Union (CNTE). Participating US unions included the International Longshore and Warehouse Union, the California Labor Federation, the AFL-CIO's Center for Strategic Research and their Mexico-based Solidarity Center, California Federation of Teachers, United Steelworkers, and Los Angeles-based immigrant worker organizations, such as the Clean Carwash Campaign and the National Day Laborer Organizing Network. ITSC's research partners from the



Peter Olney, ILWU; María Elena Durazo, LA County Federation of Labor; and Mike Garcia, SEIU-USWW Local 24/7; photo by Leopoldo Peña

Universidad Autónoma Metropolitana in Iztapalapa facilitated a joint declaration from several representatives at the meeting criticizing labor reforms in California, Ohio, and Wisconsin, as well as initiatives by conservative parties in Mexico that threaten stable employment, living wages, freedom of assembly, and democracy.

Asian Pacific American Generations United

This summer APALA hosted its eleventh biennial convention, "Generations United: Our Jobs, Our Rights, and Our Future!" in Oakland, California. This convention was a national convening of Asian Pacific American (APA) workers, labor organizers, community allies, elected officials, and young leaders, and featured US Secretary of Labor Hilda L. Solis, AFL-CIO Secretary-Treasurer Liz Shuler, AFSCME Secretary-Treasurer Lee Saunders, and SEIU President Mary Kay Henry. Over fifteen hundred student, community, and labor activists came together to address issues of grocery workers, undocumented student rights, Walmart workers, and wage theft in the APA community.

The APALA LA Chapter brought over forty Asian Pacific American young leaders to attend the convention, including students, organizers, and union members. They were joined by two hundred other young leaders for APALA's first ever youth caucuses to highlight key issues facing young people as workers and labor leaders. APALA is committed to sustaining the growth of young labor leaders through the Generations United Mentorship program, which is being launched this summer.

Finally, the UCLA Labor Center and the Center for Economic and Policy Research launched the first comprehensive report on the APA workforce, "Diversity and Change: Asian American and Pacific Islander Workers 2011." "This report provides essential information on the Asian Pacific Islander workforce that is useful for labor and community



APALA LA young leaders with APALA LA chapter president Raahi Reddy

organizations, scholars and students, and policy makers and government leaders. The research reflects the complexity and diversity of the API workforce and challenges the stereotypes that are perpetuated by the model minority myth," said Kent Wong, Labor Center director and co-author of the report, along with Lucia Lin, Nicole Woo, Hye Jin Rho, and John Schmitt.

Labor Studies Graduates and Interns

Thirty-six students completed the labor and workplace studies curriculum this past academic year, the largest graduating class to date. The graduates were honored at the annual Labor Center banquet in May, where they had the opportunity to network with labor, political, and community leaders from throughout Los Angeles. The Labor Center also hosted a reception on campus to celebrate the graduates' accomplishments with their families and friends. Kent Wong, director of the Labor Center, and Frank Tobias Higbie, chair of the labor and workplace studies minor, spoke at the reception about the incredible research, field work, and policy and programmatic contributions these students made to



the Labor Center and to the working-class movements of Los Angeles and beyond.

The Labor Center's third annual Student Leadership Academy (SLA) kicked off at the Downtown Labor Center in May. The SLA is a leadership development program that connects university students to career opportunities in labor and worker rights organizations. The program includes a leadership training followed by an eight-week, paid, full-time internship. The Labor Center received nearly two hundred applications from across the nation for the thirty-five internships. Trainers from UNITE HERE Local 11, CLUE, LAANE, and Pride at Work partnered with the Labor Center to present workshops. Students interned with SEIU ULTCW, UFCW, United Nurses Associations of California/Union of Health Care Professionals AFSCME, UFCW Local 770, Warehouse Workers United, the California Construction Academy, and the Directors Guild of America.



SLA orientation workshop

Miguel Contreras Learning Complex

The UCLA Labor Center has been supporting the vision of the Miguel Contreras Foundation over the past year through an innovative project at the Miguel Contreras Learning Complex (MCLC) that provides educational, cultural, and leadership opportunities for students, parents, and teachers.

One key component of the project includes reading circles with the Labor Center publication *Miguel Contreras: Legacy of a Labor Leader*. Using a series of student-centered lessons developed to accompany the book, UCLA labor studies students do peer-to-peer teaching with ninth-graders at the MCLC School for Social Justice. The final curriculum will be published and shared with other social-justice schools throughout the LA Unified School District in the fall.

The Labor Center also hosted one hundred twenty MCLC ninth-grade students at the UCLA campus where they met with undergraduates in the labor studies minor,

toured the campus and met with admissions officers, participated in a spoken-word performance, and engaged in dialogues about their experiences as youth of color and around access to higher education.

For the past year, Labor Center staff have also been supporting the MCLC parent committee at the School for Social Justice to create a series of leadership workshops for parents and their children to advocate for pathways to middle-class jobs and higher education opportunities. The series culminated in a full-day conference where forty-five parents learned about the latest parent engagement strategies and developed an action plan for the fall.

Finally the Labor Center is supporting an art project by renowned muralist Judith E. Baca and designers and staff of the Social and Public Art Resource Center (SPARC). The mural highlighting the life of Miguel Contreras and the MCLC community will be installed in the school cafeteria this fall.



UCLA and MCLC students at SPARC

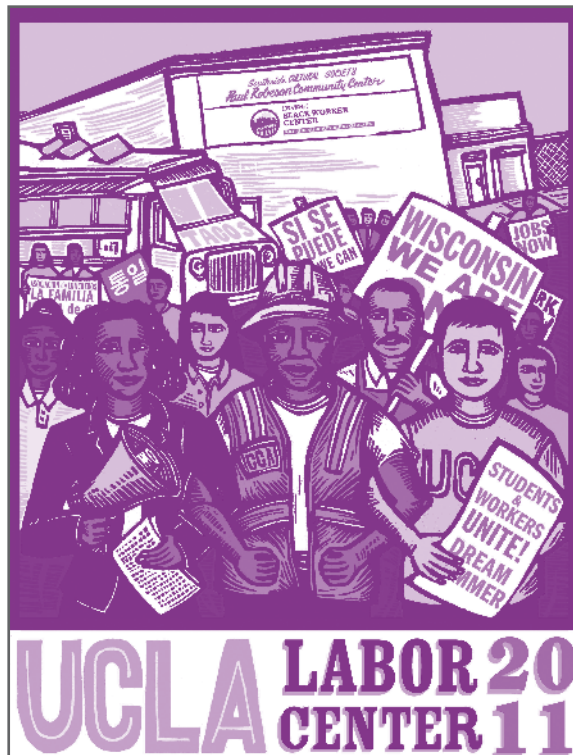
Eighth Annual Labor Center Banquet

On May 19, 2011, a capacity crowd of 650 people attended the UCLA Labor Center banquet, downtown at the Center at Cathedral Plaza. Honorees were Assemblymember Mike Eng, Pipe Trades Leader Sid C. Stolper, and California Attorney General Kamala Harris. The evening began with a video message from US Secretary of Labor Hilda Solis, who praised the Labor Center's work in supporting worker rights and economic justice.

The banquet also celebrated the thirty-six graduates of the UCLA Labor Center's labor studies program. The students gave inspiring speeches about the impact of the Labor Center on their UCLA education and their internship experiences at worker organizations and labor unions throughout Los Angeles.

Other speakers included UCLA labor studies graduates David Cho, Carlos Amador, and Karla de Paz. After graduating with the UCLA labor studies class of 2010, Karla worked as a Labor Center intern with the SEIU United Long Term Care Workers Union. After her internship, Karla was hired on as a full-time organizer, and last month, she helped win an organizing victory at a nursing home in Bakersfield representing sixty-four workers.

During the banquet, the Labor Center also launched a new membership support organization, Friends of the UCLA Labor Center, raising more than \$17,000 that evening. For more information on joining Friends of the UCLA Labor Center, go to <http://giving.ucla.edu/labor>, or contact Veronica Wilson at 310/794-9111.



Banquet poster designed by Freddy Pech

Victor Narro Appointed to CRA



Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa has appointed UCLA Labor Center Project Director Victor Narro to the Board of Commissioners of the Community Redevelopment Agency of the City of Los Angeles. Victor has been involved with immigrant rights and labor issues for many years. At the UCLA Downtown Labor Center,

Victor provides leadership programs for Los Angeles's immigrant workers and develops ground-breaking collaborations between worker centers and unions. Victor is a faculty member for the UCLA labor and workplace studies minor as well as the Chicano/a Studies Department, where he teaches classes on immigrant workers and the labor movement.

Victor was formerly the co-executive director of Sweatshop Watch. Prior to that, he was the workers' rights project director for the Coalition for Humane Immigrant Rights of Los Angeles (CHIRLA), where he was involved with organizing day laborers, domestic workers, garment workers, and gardeners. Over the past few years, Victor has worked with the Los Angeles labor movement on major immigrant worker campaigns with janitors, hotel workers, laundry workers, sanitation workers, port truckers, and the CLEAN Carwash Campaign. Before his tenure at CHIRLA, Victor worked in the Los Angeles regional office of the Mexican American Legal Defense and Educational Fund (MALDEF).

Victor is the author of many law review and journal articles. He is co-author of the reports, "Broken Laws, Unprotected Workers: Violations of Employment and Labor Laws in America's Cities" (2008) and "Wage Theft and Workplace Violations in Los Angeles" (2010), both available at <http://www.labor.ucla.edu>. He is also co-editor of a recent book, *Working for Justice: The L.A. Model of Organizing and Advocacy* (Cornell University Press, 2010).



Black Worker Center Aids PLA

The Los Angeles Black Worker Center (BWC) joined local community and labor leaders in celebrating the approval of a Project Labor Agreement (PLA) requiring a landmark hiring program for the construction of the new Martin Luther King Jr. Hospital in Watts. The \$165 million construction project will provide potentially hundreds of jobs for South Los Angeles residents.

“This victory is especially important because it signifies the objective to create good union construction jobs that are equitably shared within the communities that fund them,” says BWC Director Lola Smallwood Cuevas. “Times are tough for black construction workers, so this collaborative effort to help them get back to work is encouraging.”

The BWC provided crucial support in influencing the Board of Supervisors to pass the PLA, working closely with the office of Supervisor Mark Ridley-Thomas to send the message that PLAs and local hire policies are one solution to the black job crisis. During board meetings, the center provided a series of testimonials from workers who have struggled to find construction jobs during the economic downturn. The PLA also contains antidiscrimination language developed by the Black Labor Construction Council and the BWC legal advisory team.

As the project breaks ground, the BWC will continue working with the office of Supervisor Ridley-Thomas to ensure that local black residents are put to work on the project. The BWC is funded by Open Society Institute and the Liberty Hill Foundation.



Mark Ridley-Thomas and Lola Smallwood Cuevas, center, and Labor Center/BWC Project Coordinator Lanita Morris, second row, right, with the Black Labor Construction Council



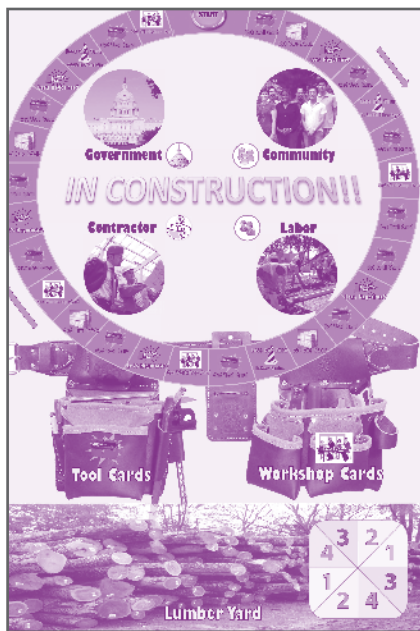
California Construction Academy Update

The California Construction Academy (CCA) has been hard at work researching and monitoring new trends in the construction industry; strengthening best practices related to green building, workforce development, and apprenticeship programs; and facilitating stakeholder relationships between labor, management, and community.

The CCA’s most recent Community Scholars project brought together labor leaders, community leaders, UCLA graduate students, and CCA staff to develop games and other interactive activities related to green jobs. The games provide popular education tools to help stakeholders overcome the gridlock in strategy development, decision-making, and program implementation that currently blocks the development of quality, living-wage jobs. One game is focused on developing partnerships in the construction industry and the other on healthy

and sustainable food access in low-income communities.

The CCA will publish a book in the fall on construction careers that advocates using a “deep green approach” for creating a green economy. This approach moves beyond temporary fixes and instead focuses on the need for diverse groups to work together to create demand for comprehensive energy-efficiency retrofits that maximize cost savings, job creation, and environmental benefits. This book will offer diverse stakeholders—environmental and environmental justice groups, community advocates, elected officials, policy and workforce development professionals, labor unions, businesses, and investors—the opportunity to survey the construction industry from the perspective of current labor markets and policies as well as emerging innovations, such as energy-efficiency retrofits and renewable energy.



Popular education board game

Julie Su Appointed Labor Commissioner



In February 2011, Governor Jerry Brown appointed Julie Su, a nationally recognized expert on workers' rights and civil rights, as the new labor commissioner of the State of California. Su has dedicated her distinguished legal career to advancing justice on behalf of poor and disenfranchised communities. A MacArthur Foundation "Genius" award winner, Su is known for pio-

neering a multistrategy approach that combines successful impact litigation with multiracial organizing, community education, policy reform, coalition building, and media work.

Prior to her appointment as labor commissioner, Su served as the litigation director for the Asian Pacific American Legal Center, the nation's largest nonprofit civil-rights organization devoted to issues affecting the Asian American community. In her seventeen years as

a civil rights lawyer, Su brought landmark lawsuits on behalf of low-wage workers in California and initiated grassroots campaigns against sweatshop abuses. Her cases have resulted in multimillion dollar judgments for workers and effected policy change throughout the country.

In 1995 Julie Su was the lead attorney for Thai garment workers who were trafficked into the United States and forced to sew in a slave labor compound behind barbed wire and under armed guard in an apartment complex in El Monte, California. In the first federal lawsuit of its kind, the case resulted in over \$4 million in settlements with garment manufacturers and retailers as well as two published decisions that opened the doors for workers in the underground economy to hold companies responsible for exploitation. Su also succeeded in getting visas for the Thai workers, which paved the way for federal legislation protecting survivors of trafficking. Su has litigated numerous other cases on behalf of low-wage workers and has become a leader in what is now a broad-based international campaign, including workers, activists, and good corporate citizens, against sweatshop abuses throughout the world.



Workers Memorial Day 2011

Over one hundred students, staff, and faculty attended the UCLA Labor Occupational Safety and Health (LOSH) Workers' Memorial Day event on the UCLA campus. Keynote speaker Ellen Widess, at her first public appearance as the newly appointed chief of Cal/OSHA, asserted that the agency is "committed to protecting the health of all workers in the state." On the fortieth anniversary of OSHA, she stressed the challenges of meeting the needs of California's large workforce, which has grown by 2.8 million since 1994, while the number of OSH inspectors has remained constant.



Ellen Widess, center, with LOSH Director Linda Delp and event staff

UCLA Center for Health Policy Research Director E. Richard Brown linked the New York Triangle Shirtwaist Factory fire—which killed 146 mostly young, immigrant garment workers a hundred years ago—to the critical need to strengthen public health and labor reforms today. Panelists included Luz Elena Oseguera and Chloe Osmer from the CLEAN carwash campaign, Altagracia Garcia from the Domestic Worker Coalition, Ricardo Hidalgo from the Teamsters, and Sabrina Bornstein from the Don't Waste LA campaign.

LOSH hosted a second event for more than two hundred people at the UCLA Downtown Labor Center. They heard moving testimony from Julie Butcher, a long-time Los Angeles labor leader who lost her son to workplace violence, and from the sons of Martimiano Carreon Morales who died on the job. Mr. Morales is featured on the 2011 Workers' Memorial Day poster, created by Ernesto Yerena and available from SoCalCOSH. Ellen Widess was again the keynote speaker, and panelists included representatives from Warehouse Workers United, SEIU Local 1877, Clergy and Laity United for Economic Justice, and Labor Center staff Kent Wong and Victor Narro.

New Labor Center Staff and Interns



Delia Esmeralda Arriaga is originally from Guadalajara, Mexico. She arrived in the United States as an infant and grew up in South Gate. She recently graduated from UCLA with a BA in international development studies and minors in Spanish literature and urban studies.

While an undergraduate, Delia was an active member of IDEAS, a support and advocacy group for undocumented students. Delia interned at the East Los Angeles Community Corporation Real Estate Department, worked with VELA Light of the Community's Farmers Market, and has continually worked with the SHOUT Beyond the Bell Program in Boyle Heights. She plans to pursue a master's in urban planning and is currently a Labor Center intern with the Dream Resource Center.



Citlalli Chavez received her BA in political science from California State University, Fullerton. She is currently a second year master's student in Latin American studies at UCLA concentrating in political science, urban planning, and Spanish. Ultimately, she

aspires to complete a doctoral program in urban planning and development. Citlalli arrived in the United States at the age of five with her parents and her younger sister from Jalisco, Mexico. As a Labor Center intern, she is working to make graduate school more accessible to underrepresented students through Graduates Reaching a Dream Deferred (GRADD), an organization that fosters unity, advocacy, and the formation of a network of individuals who believe in educational equity.



David Cho came to the United States from South Korea when he was nine, but it was not until his freshman year at UCLA that he discovered he was an undocumented immigrant. David graduated with a dual degree in international economics and Korean,

and was the first Korean American and undocumented student to be head drum major for the renowned UCLA marching band. David helped found the UCLA student organization Asian Students Promoting Immigrant Rights through Education (ASPIRE), a space for Asian American students to share their stories and a vehicle for activism. David was also one of the first Korean American undocumented students to testify publicly in Washington, DC, on behalf of the DREAM Act and was featured on CNN, the *Wall Street Journal*, the *Los*

Angeles Times, and the *Huffington Post*. David will return to UCLA as a graduate student in public policy, with the hope of becoming a US senator. As an intern, at the Labor Center, David is helping coordinate the Dream Summer international internship program.



Nancy Guarneros was born in Mexico. She was brought to the United States when she was eight months old and raised in Culver City. She attended Santa Monica College and transferred to UCLA, where she received her BA in sociology and education.

She completed her master's degree in social science and comparative education with a focus on race and ethnicity in 2010 at the UCLA Graduate School of Education. Nancy is currently a PhD student at Claremont Graduate University in the School of Educational Studies. She is also a cofounder of GRADD, an organization founded by undocumented graduate students that aims to address the needs of immigrant students interested in pursuing graduate education. She is currently an intern for the Labor Center's Dream Resource Center.



Pearl Loehng is a community organizer for the Los Angeles Black Worker Center (BWC), focused on reversing the disproportionate levels of unemployment and underemployment in the Los Angeles black community. Prior to her position at the BWC, she

served as access coordinator for the SHAPE project, a project that aims to raise the political consciousness of young black students in Los Angeles and provide them with the opportunity gain access to higher education. She received her BA from UCLA.



Stefanie Ritoper is the new communications director for the UCLA Labor Center's California Construction Academy. Stefanie has a multidisciplinary background in new media, communications, and urban planning. As a multimedia consultant, she collaboratively produced short films and conducted media trainings

with nonprofit organizations in the Los Angeles area. Prior to her consulting work, she conducted research on issues affecting underserved Asian American communities at Asian Americans/Pacific Islanders in Philanthropy, a membership and advocacy organization based in San Francisco. Stefanie holds a master's degree in city planning from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology.

UCLA Center for Labor Research and Education
PO Box 951478
Los Angeles CA 90095-1478
Phone 310/794-5983; Fax 310/794-6410

UCLA Downtown Labor Center
675 S Park View St
Los Angeles CA 90057-3306
Phone 213/480-4155; Fax 213/480-4160

Non-Profit
Organization
U.S. Postage
PAID
U.C.L.A.

Labor Center Advisory Committee

Chair, María Elena Durazo, LA County Federation of Labor

Michael Bilbrey, California School Employees Association

Cherie Brokaw, CWA District 9

Velma Butler, AFT Local 1521A

David Campbell, Steelworkers Local 675

Teresa Conrow, International Brotherhood of Teamsters

Thom Davis, IATSE Local 80

Katarina del Valle Thompson, SEIU Local 721

Humberto Gomez, Southern California District Council of Laborers

Hart Keeble, Iron Workers Local 416

Paul Lee, California School Employees Association

Michael Massey, PIPE Trust Fund

Mike Miller, UAW Region 5

Joel Ochoa, IAM Local 1484

Kathy Ochoa, SEIU United Healthcare Workers West

Cheryl Parisi, AFSCME District Council 36

Joshua Pechthalt, UTLA-AFT Local 1021

Leonard Potash, AFSCME District Council 36 Retirees

Ed Rendon, Teamsters Joint Council 42

Nancy Romero, IBEW Local 18

Elena Roschdi, SEIU Workers United

Judith Serlin, SEIU Local 121RN

David Sickler, California State Building and Construction Trades Council

Robert Smith, Painters District Council 36

Loretta Stevens, California United Homecare Workers SEIU/AFSCME Local 4034

Michael Straeter, UFCW Local 1442

Manuel Valenzuela, International Brotherhood of Teamsters

Cristina Vazquez, SEIU Workers United

Henry Walton, Labor Review

Goetz Wolff, UCLA School of Public Affairs

David Young, Writers Guild

Staff

Kent Wong, Director

Carlos Amador, Project Coordinator

Andrea Arias, Fund Manager

Delia Arraga, Intern

Citlalli Chavez, Intern

David Cho, Intern

Elizabeth Espinoza, Student Affairs Officer

Natalia Garcia, Administrative Specialist

Nancy Guarneros, Intern

Fabiola Inzunza, Intern

Uyen Le, CCA Research Director

Lucia Lin, Acting Student Affairs Officer

Pearl Loehnig, BWC Community Organizer

Nancy Meza, Intern

Julie Monroe, Project Director

Lanita Morris, Project Coordinator

Victor Narro, Project Director

Johnny Ramirez, Graduate Student Researcher

Stefanie Ritoper, CCA Communications Director

Gaspar Rivera-Salgado, Project Director

Hugo Sarmiento, CCA Project Coordinator

Janna Shaddock-Hernandez, Project Director

Lola Smallwood Cuevas, Project Director

Claudia Suarez, DLC Office Manager

Jan Tokumaru, Project Director

Daniel Villao, CCA Director

Veronica Wilson, Advancement Officer

Labor Education News edited by Julie Monroe