NEARLY 60 YEARS OF WORKER JUSTICE

Established in 1964, the UCLA Labor Center, a unit of the Institute for Research on Labor and Employment (IRLE), housed at the UCLA James Lawson Jr. Worker Justice Center in the heart of downtown Los Angeles, believes that a public university belongs to the people and advances cutting-edge research, education, and service guided by our core values: economic equity, racial and immigrant justice, and worker power and solidarity.

Through our signature approaches and methodology that employ research justice, narrative storytelling, student and leader-to-movement pathways, and culturally and racially responsive evaluation, we partner with workers, unions, worker centers, students, and impacted communities to advance economic justice across California, the nation and globally.



OUR PILLARS OF WORK



The Center for the Advancement of Racial Equity at Work (CARE at Work) engages Black workers and economic justice advocates and facilitates innovative solutions that address the needs of Black working-class people.



The Dream Resource Center creates programs that educate, train, and connect immigrant youth so they continue to be at the forefront of the national movements that impact their communities.



Global Solidarity develops collaborations between labor leaders, scholars, and activists to address common worker issues in the United States, Mexico, Canada, and the Pacific Rim.



Prosperity, Opportunity, and Worker Equity Reimagined (POWER) in Workforce Development focuses on institutionalizing solutions that align with the high road training partnership (HRTP) framework to address systemic issues that limit economic outcomes for the most marginalized communities in California.



ReWork employs a research-justice approach that recognizes students, workers, and community members as experts, approaches research as a tool for action, and promotes equal access to information in order to advance economic equity.



The Rework Radio Podcast elevates stories of work to humanize and break down economic and racial justice issues through curated interviews centering the life story of workers and activists.

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RECENT IMPACT

COVID-19 RESPONSE AND THE FUTURE OF WORK

Leveraging our long track record of multidisciplinary research expertise and public policy analysis, our project teams provided timely analysis on how deepening inequalities shaped workers' experiences amid the pandemic, as well as strategies to protect the state's most vulnerable workers.



Black Workers

Our research on Black workers found that economic restructuring resulting from the COVID-19 pandemic intensified the Black job crisis in Southern California, and highlighted the critical need for swift government intervention to promote job recovery.

Fast Food Workers

Our reports found that fast food workers experienced high rates of COVID-19 exposure, wage theft, and health and safety hazards. This research supported the enactment of AB-257, the Fast Food Accountability and Standards (FAST) Recovery Act.

Gig Workers

Our study on gig workers examined the conditions of gig work in California in the wake of the pandemic and evaluated California's "Cooperative Economy Act (CEA)" that would restructure the relationship between workers and platforms like Uber, Lyft, and Instacart.

Workforce Development

Our workforce development team examined the role of emerging worker centers in the state's public workforce development system through fostering leadership development, movement building, and systemic change.

Combating Anti-Asian Violence

Our collaboration with the Asian Pacific American Labor Alliance (APALA), AFL-CIO, began with connecting the labor movement with efforts to address the rise in anti-Asian violence stemming from the pandemic. Our broader racial justice campaign focuses on building multi-racial unity; supporting the rights of immigrant workers and youth; and advancing API worker and community engagement to support organizing and civic participation.



UCLA Labor Center

MOVING FORWARD TOGETHER

Today, California must rebuild an equitable post-pandemic economy, address the rapidly shifting jobs landscape, and develop a robust green economy to confront the escalating climate crisis. With support from our partners, the UCLA Labor Center can expand its work to address the region's current and future economic challenges and train new generations of researchers, policymakers, and public servants.

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