

2/1/2021 [Allunit] Two petitions and two invitations

Dear colleagues:

Welcome back! It always seems sort of cruel to call it the spring semester, especially when it is blizzarding outside – but we hope you stay warm and safe as the semester begins.

MSP leaders and activists have been hard at work during the semester break, along with activists from the staff unions, and we have lots of opportunities for our members to become more involved.

First, please sign this letter demanding that furloughed PSU and USA staff members be reinstated to full-time status. As you know, we are working in close solidarity with the staff unions on this campaign to **end the furloughs** now that federal stimulus funds are available. Almost all academic department staff have now been reinstated, but many are still furloughed in other parts of campus:

<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSdrKXlagsoz8zIHf9UD4WpcwH8btOHqlv4AqA5QK62II-aOcQ/viewform>

Second, please sign a statewide petition as part of our campaign to get higher ed staff and faculty **vaccinated** – especially those who are on campus working and teaching in person. In 32 states, higher education personnel are being vaccinated alongside K-12 educators, and Massachusetts should do the same: <https://actionnetwork.org/letters/make-vaccinations-available-to-higher-education-workers>. For more information: <https://massteacher.org/news/2021/01/take-action>

Third, the Western Mass Area Labor Federation is hosting a Troublemakers' School this coming weekend (**February 5 - 7**), coordinated by Barbara Madeloni of Labor Notes. Workshops and panel discussions will highlight the struggles, wins, and ongoing organizing efforts of workers in Western Massachusetts. See details and register here: <https://labornotes.org/westernmass>

Finally, the new **MSP Members Open Forum** is an informal virtual space to get union updates, share information and ideas, and connect socially with other faculty members and librarians. The first one is this **Friday, February 5**. Drop in (with your lunch or a cup of tea!) between noon-1pm: <https://umass-amherst.zoom.us/j/92452221421>. Updates happen during the first 15 minutes, followed by informal conversations and sharing.

In solidarity,
Eve

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