

9/4/2020 [Allunit] Labor Day and “Scholar Strike” teach-in

Dear colleagues:

You are invited to participate in two important events next week.

First, on Labor Day, MSP will join with unions representing working people all over Western Mass, for a Labor Day rally at Springfield City Hall. The theme is “investing in a just recovery,” and workers will speak about their experiences during the pandemic – including representatives of the UMass unions who are fighting layoffs. Please join us:

Monday, September 7 – 11:00 am – Court Square, Springfield.

<https://www.facebook.com/events/341195097056647>

Second, the MSP is organizing a virtual teach-in as part of the national “Scholar Strike” for racial justice. You can learn about the idea behind the Scholar Strike here:

<https://academeblog.org/2020/09/02/scholar-strike/>. Our teach-in will include presentations from faculty in several departments at UMass, and time for discussion. Hope to see you there!

Labor and the Movement for Black Lives: Intersections of Economic and Racial Justice

Wednesday, September 9

12-1:30pm EST (via Zoom; [click here to join](#))

Description:

In August 2020 professional athletes launched a historic strike against white supremacist violence. Some unions, including the MTA, have supported the idea of work stoppages for racial justice (see [Statement from Labor Movement in Support of Work Stoppages for Black Lives](#)) while others have not. What should unions be doing right now? Specifically, how can we fight for the working class as a whole while prioritizing the needs of the most oppressed within that class?

This panel will feature short presentations by local scholars and union members, followed by discussion with the audience.

Sponsored by the Massachusetts Society of Professors, the Western Massachusetts Area Labor Federation, and others.

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