

MTA Summer Conference



MTA Summer Conference: Special Topics for Higher Ed Members

These workshops will take place at MTA Summer Conference ([Register Here](#))

Sunday, July 31st at 10:30 and Monday morning from 9:00 am to lunch

With a new Governor and the Fair Share Amendment on the ballot this fall, and an incoming Commissioner of Higher Ed, the landscape of decision-makers is changing. As locals gear up for bargaining and a new legislative session, how will we best navigate this new landscape for a more just, equitable and fully funded public higher education system? This Summer Series for higher ed members will cover a range of topics to help prepare activists and leaders for the opportunities and challenges that lie ahead. Workshops and facilitated discussions will include topics geared toward professional staff, classified staff, faculty and adjunct faculty members of the Community College, UMass, and State University systems.

Sunday, July 31st

10:30 am to noon

University Debt: How it Undermines Public Higher Education and How to Organize to Stop it

Facilitated by Joanna Gonsalves, Professor of Psychology, Salem State University and Richard Levy, Professor Emeritus, Salem State University

The college debt crisis is mostly associated with student indebtedness, but college institutions are increasingly fueled by debt. This "other college debt crisis" means that millions of our universities' dollars get paid to private creditors and financial institutions rather than supporting students, workers, and campus communities. Debt service obligations have priority over educational expenses and underlie student fee hikes. Increasingly, it is the way universities are keeping their doors open. In this workshop you will learn how to calculate and understand the consequences of your university's debt and how to use that knowledge to organize on campus, uniting to reorder your university's budget and to fight for increased public funding. **This workshop will take place at MTA Summer Conference ([Register Here](#))**

1:30 to 3:00 pm

The Future of Remote Work and Flexible Schedules

The pandemic disrupted many of our workplace norms, perhaps most of all the norm of working in the office on a fixed schedule. In this workshop, geared toward classified and professional staff, we'll explore how we can use this moment to bargain for fair and equitable remote and flexible work options. **This workshop will take place at MTA Summer Conference ([Register Here](#))**

3:15 to 4:45 pm

Getting to Know Your Employer Part 1 Facilitated by Susan Nogan, NEA

In this two-part workshop we will explore how to research various aspects of your institution and how that information can be incorporated into organizing, bargaining, communications, and advocacy strategies. The second session will be reserved for reviewing what participants uncovered about their institutions and discuss best ways to operationalize the information. **This workshop will take place at MTA Summer Conference ([Register Here](#))**

Fair Share for Higher Ed

The Fair Share Amendment would change the state's Constitution to help address the chronic underfunding of our public schools, colleges and universities. How will we ensure our public higher ed institutions receive the funding from Fair Share needed to provide quality, affordable education to students? Join us for a dialogue

about advocating for Massachusetts public colleges and universities by advocating for the Fair Share Amendment. **This workshop will take place at MTA Summer Conference** ([Register Here](#))

Monday, August 1st

9:00 to 10:30 am

Getting to Know Your Employer Part 2 Facilitated by Susan Nogan, NEA

In this two-part workshop we will explore how to research various aspects of your institution and how that information can be incorporated into organizing, bargaining, communications, and advocacy strategies. The second session will be reserved for reviewing what participants uncovered about their institutions and discuss best ways to operationalize the information. **This workshop will take place at MTA Summer Conference** ([Register Here](#))

UUU Classified Coalition: Organizing to Win Facilitated by Miles Stern

Join classified staff local leaders and rank-and-file activists from across UMass for an organizing session at summer conference as we gear up for collective bargaining in 2023
Our priorities are focused around **Three Key Issues**

- **Equity!** Minimum standards and benefits between units and with professional staff
- **Full Staffing!** No outsourcing/long-term temps/privatization
- **Advancement!** Opportunities for Promotions/Career growth, Clear job titles with appropriate wages to match

This workshop will take place at MTA Summer Conference ([Register Here](#))

10:45 to 12:15 pm

The Future of Higher Education Finance in Massachusetts: Austerity or Equity and Prosperity? Facilitated by Noah Berger

In this session we will examine work that is currently being done by the Department of Higher Education, looking at both the strengths and limitations of the Equity Agenda, initiatives on Student Support Services, and their investigation of funding formulas. More importantly, we will explore what it would take to reverse enrollment declines by making sure that all low-income students, and particularly students of color, can afford higher education, can receive the supports they need, experience a culture of belonging, and are able to benefit from having educators whose wages and working conditions allow them to meet all students where they are and help them to thrive in the classroom and beyond. **This workshop will take place at MTA Summer Conference** ([Register Here](#))

Activating our Public Campuses: Organizing with Students to Improve their Learning Conditions and Our Working Conditions Facilitated by Catherine Santiago and Joanna Gonsalves, Professor of Psychology, Salem State University

This workshop will explore the importance of involving students in our fights for funding and improved campus environment; outline methods for engaging students on these issues inside and outside of the classroom; and provide examples of faculty working with students to advocate for improved learning conditions/working conditions. **This workshop will take place at MTA Summer Conference** ([Register Here](#))

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