

# The Boston Labor Conference



APRIL 1, 2017 9:00am to 3:30pm  
UMass Boston, Wheatley Hall  
Labor Resource Center, 4<sup>th</sup> floor, Room 151

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## Program

**8:30–9:00am Light Breakfast**

**9:00–9:15am Opening Remarks**

Steven Tolman, President, Mass AFL-CIO  
Darlene Lombos, Executive Director, Community Labor United  
Vice President, Greater Boston Labor Council

**9:15–10:30am**

**Session 1: Roundtable**

**(U-TEACH)**

**Workers' Rights and Organizing: Surviving Trump's Presidency**

Chair: Rand Wilson, Communications & Policy Director, SEIU Local 888  
Speakers: Barbara Madeloni, President, Massachusetts Teachers Association  
Larry Cohen, past President, Communications Workers of America and Board Chair, Our Revolution  
Elvis Mendez, Lead regional organizer, National Guestworker Alliance

**10:40am–12:10pm**

**Session 2a: State of Labor**

**(U-TEACH)**

Chair: Jeff Crosby, Labor Resource Center, UMB  
*Workers and Earnings Inequality in the Boston Metro region*  
Randy Albelda, UMB, Professor of Economics  
Aimee Bell-Pasht, Urata Blakaj, Trevor Mattos, UMB  
*State of Massachusetts Labor*  
Enid Eckstein  
*South Asian Working Class Women in New England*  
Jyoti Sinha, UMB, Labor Resource Center  
*Sex Work and the Carceral State*  
Bella Robinson, Executive Director, COYOTE, Rhode Island  
Elena Shih, Assistant Professor of American Studies, Brown University

**Session 2b: The Opposition in Boston**

**(LRC)**

Chair: Elaine Bernard, Executive Director, Labor and Worklife Program, Harvard Law School

*The Consultants*

Suren Moodliar, Encuentro 5

*The Pioneer Institute and the Privatization Lobbies*

Abby Scher, Institute for Policy Studies Program on Inequality and the Common Good

*Community Planning and Regional Development*

J. Philip Thompson, Associate Professor, Department of Urban Planning  
Massachusetts Institute of Technology

*Power Elites in Boston: Then and Now*

John Trumbour, Research Director, Labor and Worklife Program, Harvard Law School

**12:45–2:10pm**

**Session 3a: Organizing through Inequality**

**(U-TEACH)**

Chair: Philip Reason, Community-Labor United

*Hospitality Worker Organizing and Boston's Inequality Problem*

Carlos Aramayo, UNITE HERE Local 26

*Boston's Immigrant Workers in the Shadow of Trump*

Aviva Chomsky, Salem State University

*Wage Theft and the Subcontracted Workforce*

Darlene Lombos, Executive Director, Community-Labor United

**Session 3b: Organizing in Higher Education**

**(LRC)**

Chair: Annetta Argyres, Labor Resource Center, UMB

*Unionizing Adjunct Faculty at Private Universities*

Amy Todd, UMass Boston

*Militancy, Mobilization, and Autonomy in the NEA and MTA*

Jamie Rinaldi, MTA

*Labor's Response to Corporatization of the Academy*

Jeremy Thompson, SEIU, Local 509

*Reflections on Labor Activism at UMass Boston*

Joseph G. Ramsey, UMass Boston

**2:15–3:15pm**

**Session 4: Labor Research/Education in the Age of Trump**

**(U-TEACH)**

Chair: Steve Striffler, Labor Resource Center, UMB

*Rethinking Labor Research in the Age of Trump*

Biko Koenig, Franklin and Marshall

Abby Scher, Institute for Policy Studies Program on Inequality and the Common Good

*Union Education: Spurring Coalition-Building in the Age of Trump?*

Eric Larson, UMass Dartmouth

Jeffrey Santos, Carpenters Local 94

Sponsored by: **The Labor Resource Center at UMass Boston**  
**Massachusetts AFL-CIO**  
**Greater Boston Labor Council**

The Labor Resource Center provides education through academic degree programs, professional certificates, and labor extension, and conducts research on issues surrounding work, economic and social justice, racial and gender equality, and the labor movement in the United States and around the world. [www.umb.edu/lrc](http://www.umb.edu/lrc)

