



# 9<sup>th</sup> Annual National Student Labor Week of Action

In the tradition of Cesar Chavez and Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., students and workers stood as one in the fight for economic justice and workers' rights on campuses and in communities nationwide.

2008 marks the 40th anniversary of the successful strike by the Memphis sanitation workers which led to the assassination of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

This year, thousands of students participated in over 225 actions and events during the week of action. Students demanded that their universities and corporations pay their workers living wages, provide adequate medical benefits, respect workers rights to organize, collectively bargain and more.

Different organizations, networks and people came together and made connections between their work as part of the same movement for social and economic justice.



*Philadelphia, PA - Workers, clergy, community, youth & students marched through Philly's streets in their campaign to improve working conditions for Philly's security officers with the POWR campaign.*

## NSLWoA is a chance to get to know workers and begin to understand the issues on their particular campus or community...

The National Student Labor Week of Action (NSLWoA) is more than just a time for students to take action on their respective campaigns.

For many, the NSLWoA is a strategic moment to bring to fruition a plan/campaign that they've been working on for months, if not years.

It is an opportunity to reach across campuses and communities and get to know other activists and organizers and their fights for social change on a wide range of issues like environmental justice, human rights, and racial justice to name a few.

NSLWoA is a chance for students to get to know workers and begin to understand the issues on their particular campus or community, and from that beginning, to let others know of the injustices occurring in their daily lives. For others, it is an opportunity to show solidarity with friends, allies, or other champions of justice.

The NSLWoA helps students and their allies know they are not alone in their struggles for workers rights, economic and social justice on their campuses and in their communities.

The **Student Labor Action Project (SLAP)** is a joint initiative of Jobs with Justice and the United States Student Association that engages student organizations in economic justice campaigns.

JwJ coalitions around the country house local SLAPs that connect students from multiple campuses.

SLAP supports the growing student movement for economic justice by making links between campus and community organizing, providing skills training to build lasting student organizations, and developing campaigns that win concrete victories for working families.

SLAP partners with student organizations such as United Students Against Sweatshops, MEChA, Student-Farmworker Alliance, Student Action with Farmworkers, and many others to build a strong student movement for workers' rights and economic justice.

*Grad students and allies target a trustee at a local financial institution protesting the wage disparities they view as a slap in the face after working and investing in Stony Brook University for years.*



We took it to decision makers and kept the pressure on them through the various actions in different cities



*Sacramento, CA - Students, workers, labor and community members did a sit-in to call attention to the effort of Blue Diamond workers trying to organize with the ILWU during their Cesar Chavez march.*

Brought the issue of workers rights and social economic justice to over one hundred campuses and communities.

**Wichita, KS** - Young Democratic Socialists set up a table gathering petitions in support of the CIW and to raise awareness on modern-day slavery in the fields of FLA



**Miami, FL** - FIU USAS set up shop in a busy section of campus to garner support and signatures for the petition to end modern day slavery.



**Brownsville, TX** - As a part of Farmworker Awareness Week, hundreds of events like this one in Brownsville brought up issues of farmworkers, pesticides, trade and migration, and a call for a national Cesar Chavez Holiday across the country



**Seattle, WA** - UW students rally at local BK in support of the campaign for fair food



We are playing a crucial role in helping build the labor movement! Next time you hear that young people “don’t care,” take a moment to share with them all the work, excitement and energy that took place through the week of action!



**Sacramento, CA** - At the National MEChA conference, hundreds march in support of workers forming a union.



**Philly, PA** - Youth and students kicks off week of action with “voices of rebels” event



**Madison, WI** - Students rally at capitol and lift up Cesar Chavez and farmworker justice



## Celebrating the life and legacy of Dr. King



April 4th, 2008 marked the 40th anniversary of the assassination of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Across the country, students held screenings of the film "At the River I Stand" which documents the events and work Dr. King was engaged in leading up to the tragic events of that day.

U. Mass Amherst, Virginia Commonwealth University, University of Colorado, Arizona State University, Bowling Greens State University, and many more brought the story of the sanitation workers and their fight to their campus.

## Security Officers Fight For Dignity, Respect, and Better Wages - Building POWR!



Philadelphia Officers and Workers Rising (POWR) - A campaign that includes workers, religious, and community allies - had been picking up steam leading up to the NSLWoA. Fresh off a victory where university officers won paid-sick days, the POWR campaign used the NSLWoA to launch a city-wide effort to reach out to other officers in the city and get more people involved in the fight for jobs with justice.

Actions & Events included a memorial service commemorating the assassination of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., a march to the Allied Barton offices in downtown Philly led by religious and community leaders alongside the workers, and a night of poetry, spoken word, and great music that informed and brought the campaign to Philly's youth and community.

More info at [www.phillyjwj.org](http://www.phillyjwj.org)

## Miami University (OHIO) Continue fight for Living Wage!

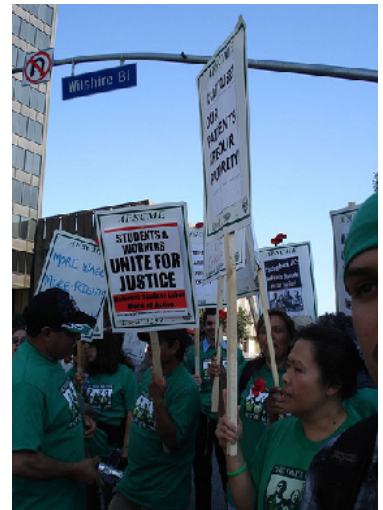
Students for Staff used the NSLWoA to launch the next phase of their living wage campaign.

Figures reflecting what a living wage would look like for their campus, a rally with about 80 people that put signs across campus reading "For a Living Wage" and a call-in and email writing campaigns marked events for them during the week.

More info at [www.musfs.org](http://www.musfs.org)

## UC Workers Standing Together for Better Wages and a Fair Contract!

20,000 UC service and patient care workers organized with the American Federation of State, County, and Municipal Employees (AFSCME) have been fighting to get equal pay for equal work. At stake is the future of thousands of workers struggling to get by, many working 2 or 3 jobs, and the quality of service that they are able to provide their patients.



(Hint: More patients, fewer workers = not the best quality of service that they'd like to provide) Student across the state took action with workers at two locations in both Northern and Southern California, and are continuing to stand with them until a fair contract is in place. More info at [www.AFSCME3299.org](http://www.AFSCME3299.org)

## Remembering Cesar E. Chavez, continuing the fight for farm workers across the country

In celebration of Cesar Chavez Day, students in over 50 campuses and communities across the country showed films and attended local Chavez marches in their local communities.



Other students held speakers on campus or raised awareness on issues affecting farm workers today like low wages, pesticides in the fields, lack of basic rights like the right to have a union.



## Down with the Crown BK: Agrees to penny more per pound

Following a very hard and successful campaign by the Coalition of Immokalee Workers, Burger King agreed to the demands of Florida's tomato pickers and their allies across the country.

On May 23, 2008, Burger King joined other corporations like McDonald's and Yum Brands, which had previously agreed to pay a penny more per pound, and agreed to work on raising living and working conditions and ending worker exploitation and slavery in Florida's fields.



**Congratulations CIW, Student/Farmworker Alliance and all the students and people that participated on the campaign for fair food.**



## Burger King: El Rey de la Explotación Laboral



## Coalition of students, workers, community members, and people of faith defeat attempt to ban Affirmative Action in Missouri!

Missouri Jobs with Justice, students on a number of Missouri's college and university campuses, working as part of the broader WE CAN coalition, won a tremendous victory when the deceptively named Missouri "Civil Rights" initiative failed to turn in signatures which would have placed a constitutional ban on affirmative action on the November ballot.



Facing millions of dollars in outside money and hundreds of paid political operatives, Jobs with Justice leaders took action, made a significant time commitment and preserved Missouri's constitution and our democracy.

**Congratulations to all the folks in MO who worked tirelessly to hand Ward Connerly his first major defeat in his anti-affirmative action campaign.**

Missouri Jobs with Justice coordinated a three-month volunteer crew of voter educators, including Cathy Goldstein and Palmer Alexander, pictured here.



These voter educators combed the streets of their communities day in and day out to find petitioners. Once they found petitioners, educators stood alongside them and made sure voters knew exactly what the deceptively-named "Missouri Civil Rights Initiative" would do to Missouri.

**Congratulations to all the folks in Missouri**



## JWJ National Conference/ Student-Labor Strategies Forum a Success!

From May 2-4, students from across the country came together with close to 1,000 organizers, trade unionists, activists, educators, rank-n-file workers, allies, and others to share their work, experiences, models, and stories at the National JwJ Conference in Providence, RI.

Close to 100 students came together at the conference and heard from student leaders in the education, workers' rights, environmental justice, immigrant rights and social justice movements. Students made connections between their work, discussed strategies and challenges on campus, and mapped out upcoming campaigns that they are planning on running come fall.

We are excited about all the connections and relationships that are continuing to be built post-conference and the impact it will have on the SLAP network.



*USSA and VT Education Association discuss the importance of access to education with allies and workers.*

Special thanks to our allies and all the students doing the work every day on their campuses and communities for taking the time to share their stories and grow with us.



*EDUCATION IS A RIGHT  
Workers & Students Unite for Justice!*

## New and improved SLAP! Grassroots Organizing Weekends (GROW)

We are excited to announce that we are currently re-evaluating and revamping what was formerly the Labor GROW, now known as the SLAP GROW, and we are working with allies in the movement for worker's rights to include more practical and necessary components for student-labor activists that will equip them with tools they need to be effective organizers in the labor movement.

**The GrassRoots Organiznig Weekend (GROW)** is a comprehensive three-day training for student organizers. The GROW taught students the butts and bolts of organizing, as well as ways to be more strategic in their fight for justice on campus and in the community.



Training includes pieces on:

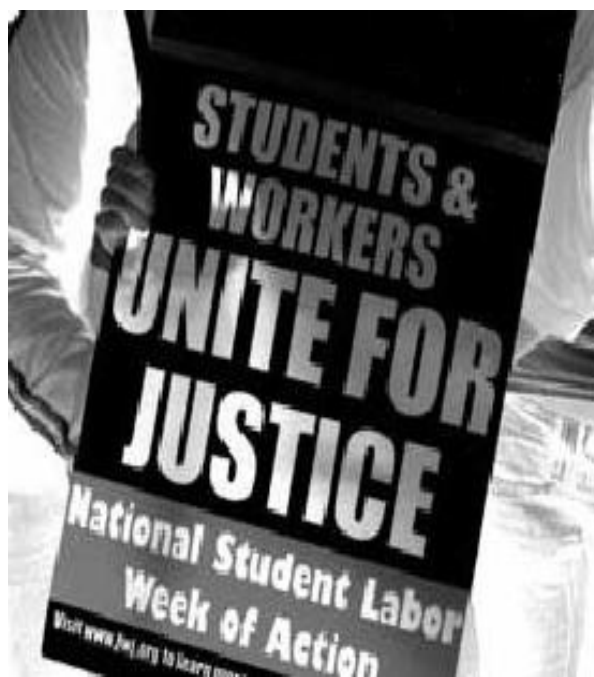
- Understanding & increasing student power on campus and in the community
- Develop an effective strategy for your campaign
- Building relationships and working with workers/unions (NEW)
- And many more essential skills for organizing



For more info contact: USSA training director  
training@usstudents.org, (202) 640-6570

**SLAP** wants to thank activists from the following colleges and universities for making the '08 **National Student Labor Week of Action** a success:

**Arizona State University**, University of Arizona, **UC Berkeley**, Pitzer College, **Pomona College**, CSU-Long Beach, **University of Southern California**, Moorpark College, **Chapman University**, Sacramento State University, **Woodland Community College**, UC Santa Barbara, **College of the Canyons**, Sonoma State, **University of Colorado at Boulder**, Yale University, **George Washington University**, Florida International University, **University of Miami**, Rollins College, **University of Central Florida**, Florida State University, **University of Georgia**, Emory University, **Lewis-Clarke State**, Loyola University, **Northwestern University**, Indiana University, **Butler University**, Purdue University, **University of Missouri at Kansas City**, University of Louisville, **U. Mass—Amherst**, Simmons College, **Smith College**, University of Maryland, **Lansing Community College**, Central Michigan University, **University of Minnesota—Duluth**, University of Minnesota—Morris, **University of Minnesota—Twin Cities**, Macalester College, **University of Southern Mississippi**, University of Montana, **Appalachian State**, UNC—Chapel Hill, **Duke University**, Elon University, **Moorestown Friends School**, Princeton University, **Rutgers University**, Central New Mexico Community College, **Stony Brook University**, Medgar Evers College/Boys and Girls High School, **SUNY Buffalo**, Ithaca College, **Columbia University**, Hunter College, **New York University**, Stuyvesant High School, **Skidmore College**, Ohio State University, **Bowling Greens State University**, Miami University (Ohio), **Wooster College**, University of Oregon, **Temple University**, Penn State University, **St. Joe's University**, University of Pennsylvania, **University of South Carolina**, East Tennessee State University, **University of Tennessee**, University of Texas, **University of North Texas/Texas Women's University**, University of Houston, **Texas A&M International University**, Virginia Tech, **Virginia Commonwealth University**, University of Virginia College—Wise, **University of Vermont**, Western Washington University, **Evergreen State College**, Washington State University, **University of Washington**, Gonzaga University, **Fanshawe College**, University of Wisconsin—Madison... **CONGRATULATIONS!**



We'd also like to thank the following organizations for partnering with us on and sponsoring the **National Student Labor Week of Action**:

**AFL-CIO**; American Federation of State County and Municipal Employees (AFSCME); **American Rights at Work**; **National Movimiento Estudiantil Chicana/o de Aztlán (MEChA)**; Student Farmworker Alliance; United Students Against Sweatshops; **Student Action with Farmworkers**; Laborer's International Union, **Young Democratic Socialists**, Young Communist League, **The U.S. Student Association**, Communication Workers of America, **Jobs with Justice**, Service Employees International Union, **UNITE-HERE**, Campus Progress

**SLAP is a network that supports the growing student movement for economic justice by making links between campus and community organizing, providing skills training to build lasting student organizations, and developing campaigns that win concrete victories for working people.**

Learn more about the **National Student Labor Week of Action** at [www.studentlabor.org](http://www.studentlabor.org)

You can reach us by phone at (202) 393-1044 x221 or e-mailing us at [slap@jwj.org](mailto:slap@jwj.org)