

## CALL FOR PARTICIPATION



Hosts the 2013 conference of the



June 12-15, 2013  
Madison College - Downtown Campus  
Madison, Wisconsin

## Fighting Forward - A Labor & Working-Class Summit

[www.fightingforward.org](http://www.fightingforward.org)

Join us at the epicenter of the "Wisconsin Uprising" for a gathering of working people, community and labor activists, students and educators focused on building a revitalized movement in support of labor and the working class. Since the start of the Uprising, we have witnessed an historic response by working people to the decades-long assault on our rights and livelihoods. Now is the time to reflect, strategize, and build connections, as we not only continue to fight back against this assault but also move forward in building a better future for labor and working class people. It is time for Fighting Forward!

The Summit will provide an opportunity to celebrate, educate, strategize, share experiences and best practices, and build connections and relationships. The program will incorporate a broad array of activities, including workshops, panels, training sessions, roundtables, cultural exhibitions and performances, strategy sessions, tabling and exhibits, and social activities aimed at building and strengthening connections among participants.

The Program Committee welcomes proposals on topics addressing the wide range of social, economic, political, and organizational challenges confronting working-class people. Presenters are encouraged to use styles of presentation that promote the participation of attendees, emphasize problem-solving, and view both problems and solutions within a broader social, economic and political context.

Against this background, we encourage the wide diversity of topics, themes, presentations, and panels that have characterized previous Working-Class Studies conferences. Please try to place your proposal within one

of the categories below, as this will help us organize individual presentations into more coherent groups. As long as your proposal relates to working-class life and experience, don't hesitate to use the "Other" category at the bottom of our list.

- Conference theme: Fighting Forward
- Class in the classroom: teaching about class, students as workers, teaching working-class and middle-class students, working-class academics, class and K-12 education, labor education
- Intersections of race, class and gender: race/whiteness studies, gender and class, class and ethnicity, class and sexuality, immigration/migrant workers
- Representations of work and workers: class and the arts, working-class history, working-class literature, labor and the body, working-class film, the future of work, working-class humor, media studies/criticism
- Class, politics and public policy: inequalities of wealth and voice, working-class political theory, class and electoral politics, class and health care, class and the environment, urban and rural class issues, social movements and class, resistance and transformation, working-class economics
- Transnational perspectives on class: war, class and the military, class in a global economy, organizing across borders, labor rights/human rights
- Class cultures: the anthropology of class; middle-class, working-class and poverty-class cultures, cross-class alliances, straddlers and cognitive dissonance
- Cooperative Movements and Class: history of cooperatives and labor unions, relationship of various cooperative movements for social change (farmer, union, consumer, communalist), worker cooperatives as alternative to traditional employer/employee relationship, cooperatives and social power, cooperatives and worker power, future of cooperatives and the working class
- Alternative Legislation: resources for progressive model bills, exemplary local and state legislation, background research and talking points
- Other

## **Guidelines for Proposals**

Sessions will be 75 minutes, and we ask participants to adopt presentation styles fostering participation and discussion on the part of attendees. Proposals may take one of the following forms:

- Panel, roundtable, training session or workshop, featuring multiple presenters, proposing jointly.
- Individual presentation, paper, or talk.
- Performance, reading, display, or screening of creative work.

Proposals should include:

- Proposed title and a brief (150-word) description.
- Suggested topic category (see list above).
- Brief biographical statement and contact information, including mailing and e-mail addresses.
- Technology needs, if any.

We will also accept proposals for caucuses for groups and organizations that would like to take advantage of the opportunity that the summit offers for convening their members.

Proposals for presentations, papers, and sessions are welcome until January 14, 2013. Notification of acceptance will be made by March 1. Submit proposals electronically to [fightingforward2013@gmail.com](mailto:fightingforward2013@gmail.com). Inquiries and special requests should be directed to Don Taylor at the same e-mail address. Please understand that due to limited space, we are not able to accommodate all proposals.

The conference web site is at <http://www.fightingforward.org> with basic information on registration, travel, lodging, and the program as it develops. The site will progressively include more information as the conference nears, including how to apply for low-income travel grants and reduced registration fees.

**The Labor & Working Class Studies Project (LWCSP)** is a collaborative campus-labor-community initiative to connect the campus and the community in dialogue and action on issues related to labor and working class people in the state of Wisconsin. The LWCSP is a member of the Working Class Studies Association.

**The Working Class Studies Association (WCSA)** aims to develop and promote multiple forms of scholarship, teaching, and activism related to working class life and cultures.