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LEGCON 2014

THE 45TH ANNUAL GRASSROOTS
LEGISLATIVE CONFERENCE
AND NATIONAL STUDENT LOBBY DAY

March for Visibility | Rally for Solidarity | Lobby to Influence

MARCH 14-17
WASHINGTON, D.C.

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AGENDA AT-A-GLANCE

45th Annual National Grassroots Legislative Conference

Thursday, March 13

3:00 PM—3:20 PM	Statewide Student Power Summit Registration & Sign in
3:20 PM – 8:00 PM	Statewide Student Power Summit
8:15 PM – 10:00 PM	Dinner and Mixer (offsite)

Friday, March 14

8:00 AM – 9:00 AM	Breakfast on your Own
9:00 AM – 12:15 PM	SSA Summit-
12:00 PM - 2:00 PM	Board Meeting
2:00 PM – 5:30 PM	Registration
2:00 PM -- 5:30 PM	Organization Fair
4:30 PM – 5:15 PM	Delegation Leader Meeting
6:00 PM – 7:45 PM	Dinner & Opening Remarks
7:55 PM – 9:35 PM	Regional Meeting Breakouts

Saturday, March 15

7:00 AM – 8:30 AM	Breakfast on Your Own
8:45 AM – 10:00 AM	USSA Introduction and Presentation by Robert Samuels
10:10 AM – 11:40 AM	Workshop Session I
11:50 AM – 1:20 PM	Lunch on your own
1:30 PM – 3:30 PM	Legislative Briefing
3:40 PM – 5:30 PM	National Womyn's Student Coalition
	Womyn's Ally Space
3:40 PM – 5:10 PM	Workshop Session II
5:30 PM – 6:45 PM	Break/Alumni Reception
5:30 PM -- 6:45 PM	SLAP Caucus
7:00 PM – 9:00 PM	USSA Student & Legislative Awards Dinner
9:10 PM -- 10:10 PM	Open Spaces
10:00 PM – 2:00 AM	Party!

Sunday, March 16

9:00 AM – 10:20 AM	National Queer Student Coalition
	Queer Ally Space
10:10 AM – 11:40 AM	Workshop Session III
11:45 AM – 12:50 PM	Box Lunch
1:00 PM – 3:30 PM	Lobby Clinic
3:40 PM – 5:40 PM	Regional Meetings
5:40 PM – 7:00 PM	Dinner on your own
7:10 PM – 8:10 PM	Panel Session
8:30 PM – 10:00 PM	Workshop Session IV
8:40 PM – 10:30 PM	National People of Color Student Coalition
	People of Color Ally Space
10:35 PM - 11:35 PM	Action Prep
11:35 PM – 2:00 AM	Lobby Help

Monday, March 17

By 8:30 AM	Check Out of Hotel and Drop Off Luggage
9:00 AM – 5:00 PM	Action & Lobby Visits
By 5:00 PM	Drop Off Conference & Lobby Visit Evaluations

USSA WELCOME LETTER

Welcome to the 45th Annual Grassroots Legislative Conference and National Student Lobby Day!

This is one of the most important times for students in the history of the United States Student Association (USSA), and we are thrilled to have you in Washington, DC. After some time in DC, our organization knows that the government does not work for students. Federal student loan debt reaching \$1 trillion is a clear symptom of the fact that a quality education is further and further out of reach for working class students.

At this conference, students come together from around the nation to learn, grow, and inspire others as leaders and organizers of the student movement. As staff, we are ready to support you as you prepare to meet face to face with your decision makers.

You not here to just defend your own story, but the stories of other students from across the country. As we continue to build a strong national organization, we encourage you to take full advantage of the knowledge imparted in the trainings, workshops, and affiliate spaces. You will find that the USSA is not only the nation's oldest, largest, and most-inclusive national student association, but the only shot we have at challenging the status quo.

While we're here to send a strong message to Congress, we also hope that you'll take advantage of your time in DC in other ways. It is a rare opportunity to be amongst hundreds of other students from all around the country. We encourage you to take the opportunity to compare notes on the work that you're doing on your campuses, learn from each other, and build relationships that will clearly outlast the conference. You'll have the opportunity to meet alumni from the USSA over the course of the conference as well. Take time to get to know them and hear what it was like to be a part of the fight to make education a right in years past.

Enjoy your time here at our Legislative Conference! Stay safe, take advantage of the array of opportunities you will have while you are here, and most importantly, go back to your campus and continue to lead, and organize for your education!

We believe that education is a right!

In solidarity,



Sophia Zaman, USSA President



Maxwell Love, USSA Vice President

WASHINGTON, D.C. MARCH 14TH - 17TH, 2014

MAYOR VINCENT GRAY WELCOME LETTER

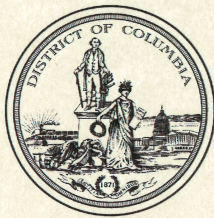


Greetings

National Grassroots Legislative Conference and National Student Lobby Day (Leg Con) 2014

March 14, 2014

As Mayor of the District of Columbia, it is my pleasure to extend greeting to the United States Students Association (USSA) on the occasion of your Annual Grassroots Legislative Conference and National Student Lobby Day (LegCon).



Through this four-day event, USSA provides students the ability and opportunity to learn new skills in student advocacy, networking and petitioning their elected representatives on student issues. Please use this chance to be the voice for students across the country and fight for concrete victories in higher education policy. As you gather on this annual event, develop your organizing and leadership skills, expand your career opportunities, and build lifelong friendships.

On behalf of the District of Columbia, you have my best wishes for a dynamic and productive session.



Vincent C. Gray
Vincent C. Gray
Mayor, District of Columbia

KEYNOTE SPEAKERS

Rinku Sen



Rinku Sen is the President and Executive Director of Race Forward: The Center for Racial Justice Innovation and the Publisher of award-winning news site Colorlines. Race Forward brings systemic analysis and an innovative approach to complex race issues to help people take effective action toward racial equity through research, media, and practice.

Under Sen's leadership, Race Forward has generated some of the most impactful racial justice successes. One example is the groundbreaking Shattered Families report, which changed the immigration debate with research on how record deportations of parents were leading to the placement of thousands of children in foster care, often separating them permanently from their families. Sen was the architect of Drop the I-Word, a campaign for media outlets to stop referring to immigrants as "illegal," resulting in the Associated Press, USA Today, LA Times, and many more outlets dropping the i-word, affecting millions of readers every day.

A visionary and a pragmatist, Sen is one of the leading voices in the racial justice movement, building upon the legacy of civil rights by transforming the way we talk about race, from something that is individual, intentional, and overt to something that is systemic, unconscious, and hidden. Prior to her work at Race Forward, Rinku served in leadership roles for over a decade at the revolutionary Center for Third World Organizing (CTWO), where she trained new organizers of color and crafted public policy campaigns. Sen's cutting edge book *Stir it Up*, read widely by community organizers and taught on campuses across the country, theorized a model of community organizing that integrate a political analysis of gender, class, poverty, sexuality, and other issues.

Sen's second book *The Accidental American: Immigration and Citizenship in the Age of Globalization* told the story of Moroccan immigrant Fekkak Mamdouh, who co-founded the Restaurant Opportunities Center of New York in the aftermath of September 11 and is currently being made into a film.

Rinku is the Co-Chair of the Schott Foundation for Public Education and sits on the boards of the Restaurant Opportunities Centers United, Working America, and the Philanthropic Initiative for Racial Equity. A highly sought-after keynote speaker for colleges Sen has spoken at Harvard, Brown, University of Michigan, Penn State, and was the Commencement Speaker at Antioch New England.

Sen received a B.A. in Women's Studies from Brown University and an M.S. in Journalism at Columbia University. A native of India, Rinku grew up in the northeastern factory towns, and learned to speak English in a two-room schoolhouse.

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Robert Samuels

Robert Samuels is President of UC-AFT, the union representing 4,000 librarians and lecturers in the University of California system. He teaches writing at UC Santa Barbara, and is the author of seven books, including, [Why Public Higher Education Should be Free](#). He writes the blog Changing Universities and is a frequent contributor to the Huffington Post. He holds doctorates in Psychology and English.



Sara Goldrick-Rab

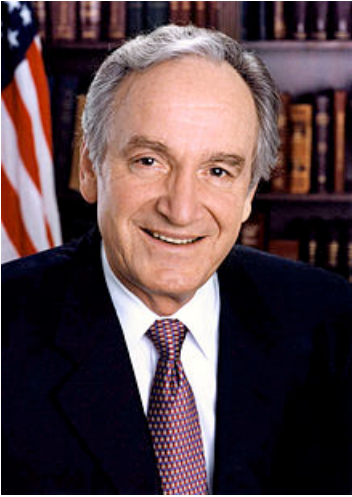
Sara Goldrick-Rab is Associate Professor of Educational Policy Studies and Sociology at the University of Wisconsin-Madison. Dr. Goldrick-Rab's commitment to scholar-activism is evidenced by her broad profile of research and writing dissecting the intended and unintended consequences of the college-for-all movement in the United States. In more than a dozen experimental, longitudinal, and mixed-methods research projects, she has examined the efficacy and distributional implications of financial aid policies, welfare reform, transfer practices, and a range of interventions aimed at increasing college attainment among marginalized populations. She runs the blog The Education Optimists. This year, Harvard Education Press is releasing her latest book, *Reinventing Student Aid for the 21st Century*, co-edited with Andrew P. Kelly. She provides extensive service to local, state, and national communities, working directly with governors and state legislators to craft policies to make college more affordable, collaborating with non-profit organizations seeking to examine the effects of their practices, and providing technical assistance to Congressional staff, think tanks, and membership organizations throughout Washington, DC. In spring 2013, Goldrick-Rab testified about her work on college affordability before the United States Senate Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions. In May 2014, Goldrick-Rab will become the founding director of the Wisconsin HOPE Lab, the nation's first translational research laboratory aimed at identifying new and effective ways to minimize barriers to college completion so that more students can reach their full potential.



AWARD RECIPIENTS

Senator Tom Harkin

As a young senator, Tom Harkin was tapped by Senator Ted Kennedy to craft legislation to protect the civil rights of Americans with physical and mental disabilities. Tom knew firsthand about the challenges facing people with disabilities from his late brother, Frank, who was deaf from an early age. What emerged from that process would later become Tom's signature legislative achievement - The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA).



As the chair of the Senate subcommittee that funds education, Tom has fought to **improve education in Iowa and across the country**. He has worked to reduce class size, give students better computer and Internet access, expand school counseling and safety programs and improve teacher training. He has also led the effort to modernize America's school infrastructure. Each year he secures funding to help school districts in Iowa update and repair their facilities.

In September 2009, following the death of Senator Ted Kennedy, Tom became **chairman of the Senate Health, Education, Labor and Pensions (HELP) Committee**. Tom believes that to serve in this capacity is to carry on the legacy of Senator Kennedy, who dedicated his life to ensuring that our economy works for all Americans, guaranteeing every child the opportunity to pursue a quality education and, of course, the cause of Kennedy's life: access to quality, affordable health care for all Americans.

Congressman George Miller

Congressman George Miller is the Senior Democrat on the House Education and Workforce Committee, proudly representing California, and is a leading advocate in Congress on education, labor, the economy, and the environment.

Congressman Miller's top priorities include education and economic growth. He is working to ensure that all students have access to the skills, support and knowledge to succeed in our economy and our society. And he is fighting to grow and strengthen America's middle class. He has been working to forge a bipartisan compromise to reauthorize federal K-12 education law, ensure that the historic Affordable Care Act that he co-wrote is fully implemented, and provide meaningful student aid programs to every eligible student.



In 2009, in response to the worst recession since the Great Depression, Congressman Miller helped craft President Obama's American Recovery and Reinvestment Act to save and create millions of jobs, invest in education, and move the economy forward. Congressman Miller also played a central role in working with President Obama to transform federal student loan programs to make accessing an affordable post-secondary education a reality for more students. The changes he succeeded at enacting into law are helping to ensure that public policies work in the best interest of students, not big banks. By eliminating the banking middleman and wasteful subsidies paid to banks, the Student Aid and Fiscal Responsibility Act of 2010 is saving \$60 billion in taxpayer money and investing that money in student aid and college completion. The law raised the Pell Grant scholarship to its highest level in history, decreased interest rates on need-based student loans and invested in community colleges and Historically Black Colleges and Universities.

Senator Elizabeth Warren

Senator Elizabeth Warren, a fearless consumer advocate who has made her life's work the fight for middle class families, was elected to the United States Senate on November 6, 2012 by the people of Massachusetts.

She is widely credited for the original thinking, political courage, and relentless persistence that led to the creation of the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau. President Obama asked her to set up the new agency to hold Wall Street banks and other financial institutions accountable, and to protect consumers from financial tricks and traps often hidden in mortgages, credit cards and other financial products.

In the aftermath of the 2008 financial crisis, Warren served as Chair of the Congressional Oversight Panel for the Troubled Asset Relief Program (TARP). Her independent and tireless efforts to protect taxpayers, to hold Wall Street accountable, and to ensure tough oversight of both the Bush and Obama Administrations won praise from both sides of the aisle. The Boston Globe named Elizabeth Warren Bostonian of the Year and TIME Magazine called her a "New Sheriff of Wall Street" for her oversight efforts.

In her time as Senator, Warren has been a champion for students, introducing legislation that would set interest rates on student loans at 0.75%, the same interest rate that banks receive. Additionally, Senator Warren has publicly called on the Department of Education to protect students by holding bad corporate actors like Sallie Mae accountable to protect current students and struggling borrowers.



AWARD RECIPIENTS



Coalition Partner of the Year

Jobs with Justice

Jobs with Justice believes that all workers should have collective bargaining rights, employment security, and a decent standard of living within an economy that works for everyone. They bring together labor, community, student and faith voices at the national and local levels to win improvements in people's lives and shape public discourse on workers' rights and the economy.

With more than 40 million students and borrowers struggling to make ends meet, Jobs with Justice recognizes that student debt is one of the biggest hurdles students and working families face today. That's why they've partnered with us on the Debt-Free Future campaign, where we're working together to create a debt-free future with free higher education for all and debt relief to existing borrowers.



Ally of the Year

Common Cause

Common Cause was founded in 1970 as a citizens' lobby to establish greater transparency and accountability in U.S. political institutions. Since then, Common Cause has expanded greatly, now operating 35 state-level organizations with 400,000 members. Their work on getting money out of politics, promoting ethics and accountability in government, and advancing voting rights have made them a great ally to USSA.

Over the past few months, Common Cause has been an especially good friend to USSA in developing the next class of Electoral Action Trainers and working with us to explore the potential for organizing students around money in politics and voter rights.



Alumni of the Year

Morales Public Relations: Eduardo Morales, Hugh Harris, Juliana Guzman

Without the strong support of alumni like Eduardo Morales, Hugh Harris, and Juliana Guzman there would be no USSA. These three alumni make up one of DC's fastest growing PR firms: Morales Public Relations (MPR). The firm works with non-profits and political organizations to establish and manage their brand. They develop strategies to position, cultivate leadership, and strengthen these organizations infrastructure to realize their vision for a better world. They have offered the staff a multitude of advice that has propelled our fundraising operation forward. They have offered us a hand to cheer us along, a shoulder to cry on, and too many meals to count.

Morales Public Relations

WASHINGTON, D.C. MARCH 14TH - 17TH, 2014

What is the SLAP Track?

Every year at LegCon Student Labor Action Project (SLAP) hosts a track of workshops focused on how students, workers, and community are coming together in the struggle for social and economic justice.

What is SLAP?

Working with Jobs with Justice and the United States Student Association, SLAP supports the growing student movement for economic justice by making links between campus and community organizing. This allows students to recognize power relationships in a much larger fight, where students are fundamentally connected to workers and workers to students.

Why go to SLAP Track?

This year we will be focusing on student power and how to leverage it at your school. We will show the great work that has already been done, and continue to show the power that our communities have when everyone has a seat at the table.

Workshops:

Session I

Planning a Winning Campaign: Visualizing Your Victory

Presenters: Beth Huang (National SLAP Coordinator, USSA & Jobs with Justice)

Short description: It's easy to hit a plateau when you're organizing a campaign. Learn new tools for visualizing self-interest, relationships, and power to break out of your rut and win.

Union 101: Collective Bargaining, Direct Action, and the Future of Work

Presenters: Mike McCormack (UMass-Amherst)

Short description: In this introductory workshop, we will explain what unions are, how collective bargaining works, and why active unions are vital to advancing economic justice in the United States. Also, we will discuss the role of unions in creating social mobility in the rise of the low-wage service sector.

Session II

Union 202: Leveraging Student Power for Solidarity with Campus Workers

Presenters: Beth Huang (National SLAP Coordinator, USSA & Jobs with Justice)

Description: In this intermediate workshop, we will examine the shared interests of students and workers in defeating the corporate agenda on campus. Learn how to organize solidarity campaigns that win concrete improvements in people's lives and how to build relationships with campus unions.

Session III

Student Unionism: Organizing Workers on Your Campus

Presenters: Avery Furst

Description: In the context of the student debt crisis and big money's attack on well-compensated jobs, student workers need to start organizing now. Check out this workshop to hear how UMass-Amherst Resident Assistants united to form a union and to learn how you can organize student workers on your own campus.

Session IV

From Student Loans to a Debt Free Future: Fighting back against the price-tag barrier to education

Presenters: Sara Fitouri (University of Denver, Colorado Student Power Alliance)

\$1.2 Trillion Dollars. That is how much our generation and the generations before us—nearly 40 million borrowers—are in debt from higher education. Meanwhile tuition hikes higher year after year, burdening students with five- and six-figure debts. The sticker shock of a college degree blocks other youth, often from low-income families and communities of color, from ever entering a university classroom by. It is time to fight back. This workshop will cover an overview of the student debt crisis, and how you can join in fighting back and demanding a debt-free future.

CONFERENCE AGENDA

45th Annual Grassroots Legislative Conference (LEGCON 2014)

Thursday, March 13

3:00 PM—3:20 PM **Statewide Student Power Summit Registration & Sign in**
 3:20 PM – 8:00 PM **Statewide Student Power Summit- Ash Lawn and Springwood**
 8:15 PM – 10:00 PM **Dinner and Mixer- (offsite)**

Friday, March 14

8:00 AM – 9:00 AM **Breakfast on your Own**
 9:00 AM – 12:15 PM **SSP Summit- Ash Lawn and Springwood**
 12:00 PM – 2:00 PM **Board Meeting- Capitol**
 2:00 PM – 5:30 PM **Registration**
 2:00 PM - 5:30 PM **Organization Fair- Ballroom Foyer**
 4:30 PM – 5:15 PM **Delegation Leader Meeting- Madison**
 6:00 PM – 7:45 PM **Dinner & Opening Remarks- Grand Ballroom**
 7:55 PM – 9:35 PM **Regional Meeting Breakouts**
 Great Lakes (IL, IN, MI, MN, OH, WI)- *Hermitage*
 Golden Pacific (CA, HI, NV, Guam, Amer. Samoa)- *Springwood I, II and III*
 Pacific Northwest (AK, ID, OR, WA)- *Sagamore Hill I and II*
 New England (CT, ME, MA, NH, RI, VT)- *Ash Lawn*
 Empire Garden (NY, NJ, PR, Vir. Islands)- *Montpelier*
 Great Plains (IA, KS, MO, NE)- *Senate (ADA access via Capitol room)*
 Atlantic Regional (DC, DE, MD, PA, VA, WV)- *Mount Vernon*
 Southeast (AL, FL, GA, KY, MS, NC, SC, TN)- *Mount Vernon*
 Rocky Mountain (AZ, CO, MT, ND, SD, UT, WY)- *Madison*
 South Central (AR, LA, NM, OK, TX)- *Senate (ADA access via Capitol room)*

Saturday, March 15

7:00 AM – 8:30 AM **Breakfast on Your Own**
 8:45 AM – 10:00 AM **Demanding Free Higher Education- Grand Ballroom**

The Context of Our Organizing

The United States Student Association will present the Context of our Organizing and why we fight to make education a right that is accessible to all.

Fighting Student Debt and the Abuse of Contingent Faculty Together

Bob Samuels--President of UC-AFT, the union representing 4,000 librarians and lecturers in the University of California system--will discuss his proposed plan to address the fact that the United States is already spending enough to make all public undergraduate higher education free to students but lacks a federal policy to make this happen. Bob Samuels will share his vision for making higher education free by implementing a policy that benefits students and faculty alike combining student issues with workers rights.

10:10 AM – 11:40 AM **Workshop Session I**

Expanding Democracy and Access: Students Solving the "Money in Politics" Problem from the Bottom Up- Hermitage

Facilitator: Calvin Sloan (People for the American Way)

The governing system, as it currently functions, cannot bring about the necessary changes for an equitable, just and sustainable future. Our state and federal governments are bought; our interests are not being served; and our reforms are stymied, time and again by moneyed interests. What are the policy solutions that can solve the "money in politics" problem? We must explore the connection this issue has to voting rights empowerment and the grassroots student-led movement that's currently underway on campuses across the country to stand against corruption and political inequality this academic semester, and beyond.

CONFERENCE AGENDA

13

Union 101: Collective Bargaining, Direct Action, and the Future of Work- Madison I & II

Facilitator: Mike McCormack (UMass-Amherst / Student Labor Action Project [SLAP])

In this introductory workshop, we will explain what unions are, how collective bargaining works, and why active unions are vital to advancing economic justice in the United States. Also, we will discuss the role of unions in creating social mobility in the rise of the low-wage service sector. This is a SLAP track workshop.

Planning a Winning Campaign: Visualizing Your Victory- Sagamore Hill I

Facilitator: Beth Huang (USSA& Jobs with Justice/ Student Labor Action Project [SLAP])

It's easy to hit a plateau when you're organizing a campaign. Learn new tools for visualizing self-interest, relationships, and power to break out of your rut and win. This is a SLAP Track Workshop.

Reproductive Justice 101- Ash Lawn

Facilitators: Raquel Ortega (Choice USA) and Derek Siegel (American University)

The battle for reproductive justice is front and center in 2014, and students are at the core of this fight. The Reproductive Justice 101 is an engaging and interactive introduction to the Reproductive Justice movement and its various intersections. Students will learn how to use the reproductive justice frame as a lens for their social justice work. This workshop will also equip students with policy knowledge, critical analysis, and resources to fight for reproductive justice.

Electoral Action Training: Analyzing and Building Power- Springwood I

Facilitators: Parshan Khosravi (UC Irvine)

Electoral Power is one form of power students and young people have to implement changes in their communities, but across the country our right to vote is under attack. Learn how to analyze personal, collective, and institutional power so you can run successful voter registration and Get out the Vote Campaigns on your campus. This is a community and power building session.

Statewide Student Power: Then and Now- Springwood II and III

Facilitator: Angus Johnston

In this workshop session, USSA's Historian and student movement expert, Angus Johnston, will be sharing the historical context and development of statewide student associations. From his experience as a leader with the Student Association of the State University of New York (SASU) and as an alumnus of USSA, Angus will chronicle the rise and fall, and rise again of student movement(s) in the US and will share his thoughts on different models of statewide student organizing.

TRIO 101 -Montpelier

Facilitator: Kimberly Jones, Council on Opportunity in Education

Many students have participated in one of the Federal TRIO Programs but have no knowledge of the program's history or the national TRIO movement. This session will illuminate participants (both past and present) as to the who, what, where, & why of TRIO and help them to join our community.

11:50 AM – 1:20 PM

Lunch on your own

1:30 PM – 3:30 PM

Legislative Briefing

Group A- *Hermitage*

Group B- *Sagamore Hill I*

Group C- *Ash Lawn*

Group D- *Springwood I*

Group E- *Springwood II and III*

Group F- *Madison I and II*

Group G- *Montpelier*

Group H- *Senate*

3:40 PM – 5:30 PM

National Womyn's Student Coalition – Ballroom I

Women's Allies Meeting– Montpelier

3:40 PM – 5:10 PM

Workshop Session II 3:40 PM – 5:10 PM Workshop Session II

CONFERENCE AGENDA

Strategic movement planning to end the corrupting influence of money in politics- Hermitage

Facilitator: Steve Hoeschele (Represent US)

This workshop will address strategic assumptions about building a movement to end the corruption in politics. Lessons learned on integrating social media and grassroots organizing in movement building. How are students affected by corruption and how can you be part of the solution?

Union 202: Leveraging Student Power for Solidarity with Campus Workers- Sagamore Hill I

Facilitator: Beth Huang (USSA& Jobs with Justice/ Student Labor Action Project [SLAP])

In this intermediate workshop, we will examine the shared interests of students and workers in defeating the corporate agenda on campus. Learn how to organize solidarity campaigns that win concrete improvements in people's lives and how to build relationships with campus unions. This is a SLAP track workshop.

Beyond Yes Means Yes: Preventing and Responding to Sexual Assault on Campus- Ash Lawn

Facilitators: Mari Schimmer and Raquel Ortega (Choice USA)

The narrative around sexual violence has been narrowly defined by a "perfect victim" trope which either criminalizes or neglects the needs of people of color and/or the LGBTQ community. In this workshop we hope to push the conversation to include a racial justice and LGBTQ analysis to make sure that our framework is inclusive of all bodies. As a group, we will identify the personal, structural, and cultural issues that perpetuate rape culture on campus in order to determine the best strategies to address them. We will then discuss both what students are currently doing on campus to prevent sexual assault and/or provide resources to survivors on campus.

Electoral Action Training: How to Talk about Voting- Springwood I

Facilitators: Cassie DuBore (Central Washington University)

Your message is the CORE ARGUMENT that highlights why your campaign is important and what action needs to be taken to make your campaign successful. Your message is the story of your campaign. For these reasons, messaging is critical to running a winning campaign. Learn the criteria for creating an effective message and how to write a concise, credible, relevant, and compelling message.

Self Care and Sustainability- Springwood II and III

Facilitators: Gabriela De Golia and Chagan Sanathu (Young People For)

Self care and sustainability are critical for student organizers. Too often do we burnout and forget to care properly for ourselves while working to tackle the issues we care about. Not only is this detrimental to us as individuals -- it hurts our collective movement. During this session, attendees will hear from experienced youth leadership trainers on what it means to properly care and sustain ourselves, and go over concrete tactics students can implement to achieve these goals. This will be done largely through the completion of personalized self-reflection wheels and assessments, along with the creation of an individualized self-care plan.

A VRA for Today: A Fix to the Voting Rights Amendment - the Voting Rights Amendment Act of 2014- Madison I and II

Facilitator: Cedric Lawson (The Leadership Conference on Civil and Human Rights)

In 2013, in the case *Shelby County v. Holder*, the United States Supreme Court struck down a critical part of the Voting Rights Act (VRA) that protected voters from racial and ethnic discrimination. This past January, Congress took a big step forward with bipartisan action to introduce the Voting Rights Amendment Act of 2014 (HR 3899/S. 1945), in the House of Representatives. The need for an effective, modern day VRA that responds to 21st century discrimination is vital to our democracy. Learn about how you are potentially impacted by this important legislation.

5:30 PM – 6:45 PM
5:30 PM -- 6:45 PM

Break/Alumni Reception

SLAP Caucus-- *Capitol*

SLAP students unite! In this session, we will discuss the SLAP's core capacities: shaping the campus dialogue about economic justice and running strategic campaigns that win concrete improvement in students' and workers' lives. We will also share strategies for advancing and uplifting SLAP's current local and national campaigns.

CONFERENCE AGENDA

7:00 PM – 9:00 PM	USSA Student & Legislative Awards Dinner - <i>Grand Ballroom</i>
9:10 PM -- 10:10 PM	Open Spaces Gender non-Conforming Space- <i>Springwood I</i> Mental Health and Wellness Caucus- <i>Springwood II and III</i> Conservative Collective- <i>Sagamore Hill I</i> Open Space 4- <i>Sagamore Hill II</i> Open Space 5- <i>Ash Lawn</i> Open Space 6- <i>Madison</i> Open Space 7- <i>Hermitage</i>
10:00 PM – 2:00 AM	Party! - <i>Atrium</i>

Sunday, March 16

9:00 AM – 10:20 AM	National Queer Student Coalition – <i>Montpelier</i>
10:10 AM – 11:40 AM	Queer Ally Space – <i>Ballroom I</i> Workshop Session III

Storytelling as Advocacy: How to ethically share stigmatized stories- *Hermitage*

Facilitator: Renee Bracey Sherman (Cornell University)

Often in the political realm, advocates want to share the stories of those most affected by policies to policymakers. However, sometimes people aren't always aware of the most ethical and empowering way to share those stories - especially ones that are heavily stigmatized. Through a workshop of activities, discussion, and lecture, I will share my experiences of being an advocate/story collector for LGBT youth and as a story sharer/person who publicly shares her own personal abortion story for advocacy. I will give the participants tools on how to empower the communities they work with to feel safe and supported in sharing their stories, and collect them in a holistic, ethical way.

Student Unionism: Organizing Workers on Your Campus- *Madison I and II*

Facilitator: Avery Furst (UMASS Amherst/SLAP)

In the context of the student debt crisis and big money's attack on well-compensated jobs, student workers need to start organizing now. Check out this workshop to hear how UMass-Amherst resident assistants united to form a union and to learn how you can organize student workers on your own campus. This is a SLAP track workshop.

Fighting the Attack on the Youth Vote! - *Sagamore Hill I*

Facilitators: Mandla Deskins, Desmond Seymour (NAACP)

In this workshop, we will learn about voter suppression in today's American democracy, how it effects young people, and how we can stop suppression now and in the future.

Queering Reproductive Justice- *Ash Lawn*

Facilitators: Raquel Ortega (Choice USA) Tiana Patterson (Choice USA) Lauren Paulk (National Center for Lesbian Rights) Kirin Kanakkanatt (GetEQUAL)

Bodily autonomy and sexual freedom are central tenets in both LGBTQ and reproductive justice movements. So why do these movements so often operate outside of each other? The truth is that reproductive health and justice issues intersect with issues faced by LGBTQ communities in many ways, and working together has the potential to strengthen and build both movements. In this workshop, participants will learn about the reproductive justice framework and learn some ways in which both reproductive justice and LGBTQ organizations are using it to do advocacy work that merges the two while remaining within their missions. Participants will also work on messaging tools to take back to their organizations, funders, and bases that will clarify why reproductive justice is a critical aspect of LGBTQ liberation.

CONFERENCE AGENDA

Electoral Action Training: Get Out the Vote- Springwood I

Facilitators: David Vines (UW Madison)

You've registered a record number of students to vote on your campus; you've talked to as many of them as you can about the issues in the election, and made sure every student's mailbox was stuffed with a sample ballot. Everyone is in your database. Now Election Day is two weeks away, and you've got to make all this work COUNT. You've got to turn all of these identified, registered voters out to the polls! Learn the ins and outs of a successful get out the vote campaign to maximize your efforts and win elections on your campus.

Running Referendum on Your Campus- Springwood II and III

Facilitator: Leah Stone (Montclair State University) & Akin Olla (USSA)

Running campus-wide referendum to fund statewide student associations and USSA is a crucial part of a membership-based funding model. This session will prepare you for the challenge of running a referendum on your campus. This session will cover it all: from research and understanding your student government or campus policies to getting students to support the referendum and running the campaign. If you want to run a referendum on your campus to fund your SSA or USSA, this is one session you need to be at!

Idle No More- Senate (ADA access via Capitol room)

Facilitator: Andrea Perkins (Young Communist League)

In this workshop, we will discuss the Keystone XL Pipeline and the Idle No More movement. The Idle No More movement is one of the fastest growing, working to stop the advancement of the Keystone XL Pipeline. As an indigenous person and social activist, the time to address this issue is right now, because we cannot afford to continue to harm our planet and the people directly affected by this issue.

11:45 AM – 12:50 PM

Box Lunch- Off Site

1:00 PM – 3:30 PM

Lobby Clinic

Group A- *Hermitage*

Group B- *Sagamore Hill I*

Group C- *Ash Lawn*

Group D- *Springwood I*

Group E- *Springwood II and III*

Group F- *Madison I and II*

Group G- *Montpelier*

Group H- *Senate*

3:40 PM – 5:40 PM

Regional Meetings

Great Lakes (IL, IN, MI, MN, OH, WI)- *Hermitage*

Golden Pacific (CA, HI, NV, Guam, Amer. Samoa)- *Executive*

Pacific Northwest (AK, ID, OR, WA)- *Sagamore Hill I and II*

New England (CT, ME, MA, NH, RI, VT)- *Ash Lawn*

Empire Garden (NY, NJ, PR, Vir. Islands)- *Montpelier*

Great Plains (IA, KS, MO, NE)- *Senate (ADA access via Capitol room)*

Atlantic Regional (DC, DE, MD, PA, VA, WV)- *Mount Vernon*

Southeast (AL, FL, GA, KY, MS, NC, SC, TN)- *Mount Vernon*

Rocky Mountain (AZ, CO, MT, ND, SD, UT, WY)- *Madison*

South Central (AR, LA, NM, OK, TX)- *Senate (ADA access via Capitol room)*

5:40 PM – 7:00 PM

Dinner on your own

7:10 PM – 8:10 PM

Panel Session: A new vision for financial aid- Grand Ballroom

This panel will feature experts on higher education policy. Panelists will talk about the current system of financial aid and how it could be re-envisioned to better support working class, first generation, and students of color. The talk will be followed by a question and answer session.

CONFERENCE AGENDA

17

8:30 PM – 10:00 PM

Workshop Session IV

Film Screening and Panel Discussion: Roe at Risk– *Hermitage*

Facilitators: Kellye McIntosh and Abby Bar-Lev (Alliance for Justice)

Narrated by actress and activist Amy Brenneman, **Roe at Risk: Fighting for Reproductive Justice** describes the dramatic impact of nationwide attacks on women’s constitutional rights. By sharing the stories of women’s day-to-day struggles in Mississippi and Texas, this 15 minute film shows the wrenching consequences of radical anti-abortion legislation. At the same time, it documents how women and their allies are fighting back, standing up bravely against politicians who propose laws that threaten the right to reproductive freedom and justice. Following the film, an expert panel will discuss the full scope of the widespread attacks on women’s health, the legislative and legal contexts in which the battle is being waged, and how students are getting involved to protect the constitutional right to safe and legal abortion.

From Student Loans to a Debt Free Future: Fighting back against the price-tag barrier to education– *Ash Lawn*

Facilitator: Sara Fitouri (University of Denver, Colorado Student Power Alliance)

\$1.2 Trillion Dollars. That is how much our generation and the generations before us –nearly 40 million borrowers –are in debt from higher education. Meanwhile tuition hikes higher year after year, burdening students with five- and six-figure debts. The sticker shock of a college degree block other youth, often from low-income families and communities of color, from ever entering a university classroom by. It is time to fight back. This workshop will cover an overview of the student debt crisis, and how you can join in fighting back and demanding a debt free future.

Electoral Action Training: Managing Volunteers, Developing Leaders, and Building Relationships– *Springwood I*

Facilitators: Michael Brein (Rowan University)

The more people you have in leadership—helping steer the ship, taking responsibility for the campaign, rolling up their sleeves and helping get the work done—the more comprehensive and effective your campaign will be. Learn how to build meaningful relationships and have productive one-on-one conversations with volunteers, developing leaders, and partners in coalition work.

Building a Coalition Student Government– *Sagamore Hill I*

Facilitators: Caleb-Michael Files and Benjamin Campero (University of Missouri - Kansas City)

After years of an inactive and Greek heavy Student Government, we decided to run, building a Multicultural Progressive Coalition of individuals from all across the political, racial, ethnic and LGBTQI spectrum which propelled us to success. Come listen to our best practices from preliminary campaigning to implementing a successful campaign season and beyond.

8:40 PM – 10:30 PM

National People of Color Student Coalition – Grand Ballroom
People of Color Ally Space – Springwood I & II

10:35 PM -- 11:35 PM
11:35 PM – 2:00 AM

Action Prep- Atrium, Madison, Mount Vernon, Sagamore Hill II
Lobby Help – Atrium

Monday, March 17

Before 8:30 AM
8:30 AM – 9:00 AM
9:00 AM – 5:00 PM
By 5:00 PM

Check Out of Hotel and Drop Off Luggage - Ballroom I/ Ballroom Foyer
Meet in Hotel Lobby for March
Action & Lobby Visits
Drop Off Conference & Lobby Visit Evaluations – Ballroom I/ Ballroom Foyer

USSA’S 45TH NATIONAL GRASSROOTS LEGISLATIVE CONFERENCE

2013-2014 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

USSA National Officers

President: *Sophia Zaman, University of Massachusetts Amherst**

Vice President and Board Chair: *Maxwell Love, University of Wisconsin Madison**

Regional Leadership

Empire Garden: *Jalina Wayser, Rowan University*

Great Lakes: *Kennia Coronado, University of Wisconsin Milwaukee*

Golden Pacific: *Navkiran Kaur, University of California, Santa Barbara*

Great Plains: *Caleb-Michael Files, University of Missouri Kansas City*

New England: *Nicole Mitchell, University of Massachusetts, Amherst*

Pacific Northwest: *Alexandra Flores-Quilty, University of Oregon*

Rocky Mountain: *Patrick Morales, Arizona State University*

South Central: *Cindy Nava, University of New Mexico*

Affiliate Leadership

National People of Color Student Coalition: *Priscilla Rodriguez, University of California Santa Cruz**

National Women's Student Coalition: *Maria Flores, University of California, Santa Barbara**

National Queer Student Coalition: *Caitlin Quinn, University of California, Berkeley**

State & Systemwide Student Association Coalition: *Torii Uyehara, Oregon Student Association**

SSA Leadership

University of California Student Association: *Aja Campbell, University of California Riverside*

United Council of UW Students: *Lamonte Moore, University of Wisconsin Milwaukee*

Oregon Student Association: *Torii Uyehara, Southern Oregon University*

New Jersey United Students: *VACANT*

Washington Student Association: *Jessie Spinney, Washington State University Vancouver*

Student Association of Michigan: *Diamond Wilder, University of Michigan Flint*

Arizona Student Association: *VACANT*

Vermont State College Student Association: *VACANT*

Caucus Leadership

DREAM Caucus: *Anayeli Jimenez, Lane Community College*

First Peoples: *Phoenix Singer, Portland State University*

Graduate and Professional: *Anthony Hessel, Northern Arizona University*

International Student: *Jonatas Ferreira, Montclair State University*

Multi/Bi Racial: *Clinton O'Grady, University of California Los Angeles*

National Asian Pacific American: *Conrad Contreras, University of California, Los Angeles*

National Coalition of Students with Disabilities: *Leah Stone, Montclair State University*

Non-Traditional/First Generation: *Sherif Ibrahim, Rutgers University New Brunswick*

Student of the Jewish Community: *Rachel Storch, Rowan University*

People of African Decent: *Shiku Muhire, University of California Santa Cruz*

People of Middle Eastern & South Asian Decent: *Jishava Patel, University of Massachusetts Amherst*

Veterans: *Ferdinando Palumbo, Montclair State University*

Women of Color: *Melissa Gamble, University of California Irvine*

Board Officers

Community Labor Liaison: *Avery Fuerst, University of Massachusetts Amherst**

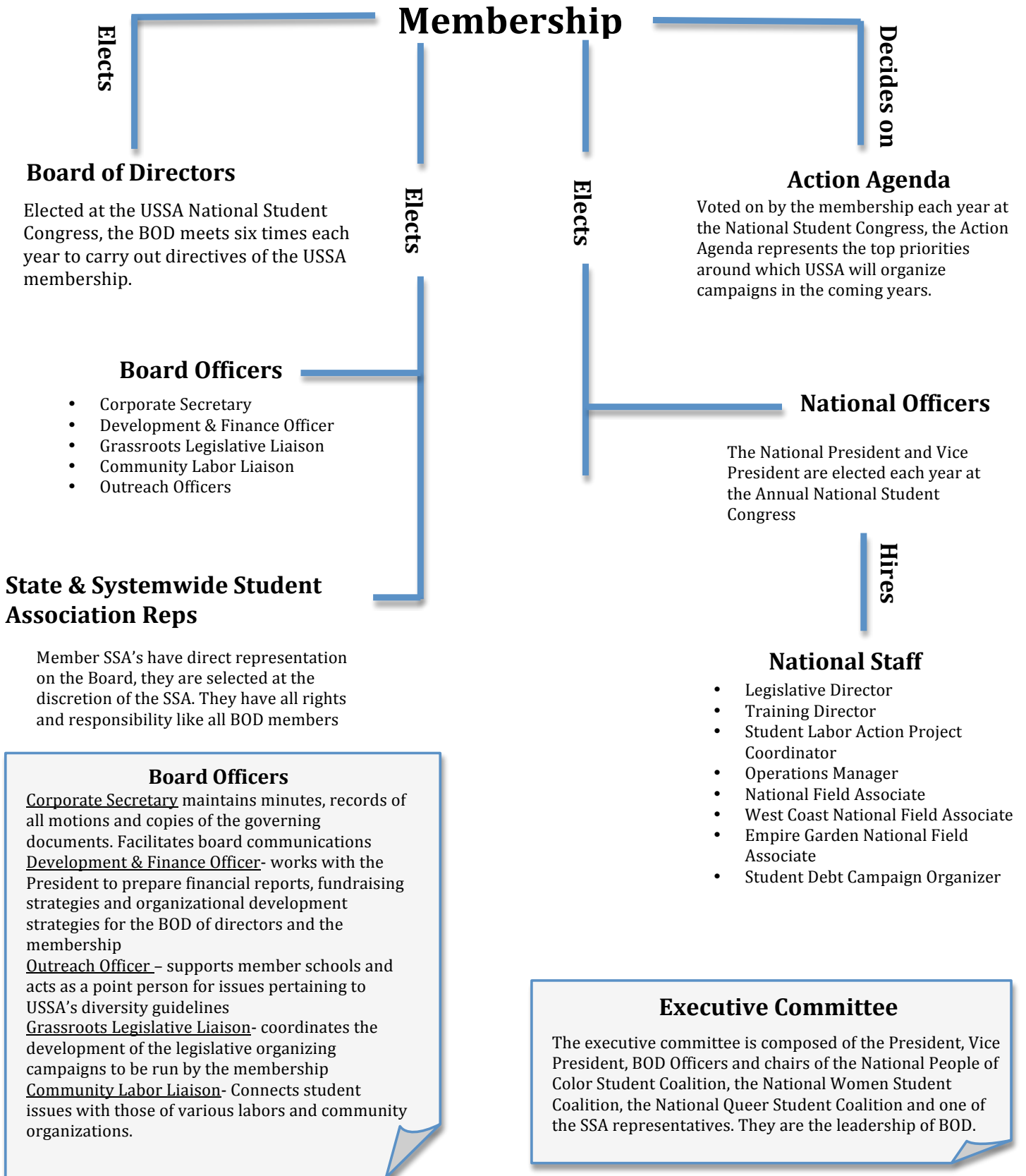
Corporate Secretary: *Lamar Wise, University of Oregon **

Development & Finance Officer: *Nilan Gunewardena, University of California Riverside**

Grassroots Legislative Liaison: *David Santillan, University of California Riverside**

Outreach Officer: *VACANT*

* *Member of the Executive Committee*



Board Officers

Corporate Secretary maintains minutes, records of all motions and copies of the governing documents. Facilitates board communications

Development & Finance Officer- works with the President to prepare financial reports, fundraising strategies and organizational development strategies for the BOD of directors and the membership

Outreach Officer - supports member schools and acts as a point person for issues pertaining to USSA's diversity guidelines

Grassroots Legislative Liaison- coordinates the development of the legislative organizing campaigns to be run by the membership

Community Labor Liaison- Connects student issues with those of various labors and community organizations.

Executive Committee

The executive committee is composed of the President, Vice President, BOD Officers and chairs of the National People of Color Student Coalition, the National Women Student Coalition, the National Queer Student Coalition and one of the SSA representatives. They are the leadership of BOD.

USSA MID-YEAR REPORT

We've had a busy year since we last saw each other at National Student Congress at Rutgers! We know that in an era of fiscal austerity and privatization, it is our responsibility to train, empower, and provide students with the tools to win concrete victories that improve their lives. So we've taken the Action Agenda and Administrative Resolutions you passed at Congress to build out comprehensive campaigns that fight for a more affordable and accessible higher education system by mobilizing grassroots power. Please read through the following report to find out what each of our departments (Legislative, Training, Field & SLAP) have been up to!

Officers (as prepared by Sophia Zaman)

Update on national staff hires

This year has been marked by a period of transition. Since Congress, we've welcomed on **John Aspray**, former Empire Garden National Field Associate, as our new National Field Director. Under his leadership, the Field and Legislative Departments are working closely together to run federal campaigns related to the Federal Budget & Appropriations and Student Debt. We've also welcomed on a new Training Director, **Athena Matyear**! Hailing from the University of Texas El Paso where she was a 2011 GROW Trainer, Athena has a long history of organizing, from working with her Queer Student Resource Center to clean water access with La Mujer Obrera. Be sure to send some love to Athena throughout the weekend as organizing LegCon has been her biggest project yet! Next, we hired **Akin Olla** as our new Empire Garden National Field Associate. As a student leader at Rowan University, Akin was one of the founding members of the Glassboro Student Union and helped develop, New Jersey United Students. This Spring, Akin is working with Rutgers University New Brunswick, Rowan University and Montclair State University to run referenda for USSA and NJUS! Last, but not least, we've welcomed on **Beth Huang** as our new SLAP Coordinator! Beth comes out of the Wisconsin student movement, as a former officer with their SSA, United Council of UW Students. She was also active in the Student Labor Action Coalition at UW Madison. If you're interested in running student-labor solidarity campaigns, be sure to reach out to her as she will be a critical resource!

Looking forward, we will have a few more staff transitions in the late spring. Please take a look at the announcements for Legislative Director, West Coast National Field Associate and Summer Internships. As we transition into National Student Congress, we're excited to welcome new members to the team!

Membership

Along with new members of the USSA team, we're happy to welcome new campuses to the membership since National Student Congress. We're so excited to say that this year the Vermont State College Student Association has voted to join USSA! We really look forward to continue to build student power in the New England region. The University of California at Riverside has also voted to re-join USSA. With so many student leaders on campus repping students at the statewide level, we're lucky to call UC Riverside members as we know they'll do big things representing students at the federal level!

Legislative Department (as prepared by Kalwis Lo)

The Legislative Department has many challenges to overcome in 2014. All that occurs is instrumental to what students are able to achieve when the Higher Education Act (HEA) is reauthorized. As I am approaching my final months here at USSA, I know that the message we set together at this organization will be most critical to what students will win in the upcoming years. Our work will lay out our priorities for what is acceptable in higher education, our nation's budget, and what issues political leaders will run

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on in the 2014 mid-term elections. This is no doubt a tall order for us all, however, USSA has a history of delivering on its commitments and we are ready.

Higher Education Act Reauthorization

The HEA is the single most important statute pertaining to higher education. It houses every law that operates funding and programs that assist in access and affordability (i.e. Pell Grants, student loans, veteran benefits, etc.). It is usually reauthorized every 5 to 7 years and is due to expire at the end of 2014. The last time it was reauthorized was in 2008 and in 1998 prior to that. USSA has the opportunity to not only bring important changes to higher education, but to lead it as the official voice of students. We have voiced to Congress that there needs to be more reforms to simplify the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA), place the Pell Grant program on a sustainable funding path, strengthen programs like TRIO and Gain Early Awareness and Readiness for Undergraduate Programs (GEAR UP), expand Federal Work Study, empower borrowers to deal with their debt by providing jobs that assist in achieving success, and all this starts with Federal, State, and institutional partnerships to make college more affordable. And we also must not forget about student loan interest rates. It's time to reset the conversation and discuss way in which federal student loan programs can operate without making profit off the backs of students.

Congress has already initiated their process for reauthorization and USSA is not going to wait and rely on it to run its course. In preparation, we are working with several of our coalition partners to set priorities that are in the best interest of students and all parties that stand to provide societal benefits to the public. No one can shake up the higher education system like students have and will continue to; after all we are the ones who have everything to lose as well as everything to gain. USSA will enter this process united with our partners.

Federal Budget

Our nation is at a critical point where deficits are extremely high, graduates hold large amounts of debt, and the political will to fund all vital programs is non-existent. We constantly hear from our legislators on the state and federal levels that there isn't enough funding for the programs that students care about. The truth is that there is funding - it's about priorities. For example, while USSA supports our troops and making sure they have the resources to be successful, there are far more taxpayer dollars that go toward the Pentagon than to the Department of Education—some of which is to maintain military equipment that will never be used. Congress can make better investments for society if it budgets smarter and approaches our financial obligation from a holistic perspective.

Other Legislative Department Responsibilities

USSA is working closely with the Education Trust and other partners to formulate a white paper on how Federal Student Aid can be reformed. The white paper includes several mini-briefs speaking to the issues of: state fiscal commitment, institutional eligibility, non-traditional students, Federal Work Study, and Pell stability. The final full paper will be released at the end of June 2014.

As Legislative Director I was nominated and selected as an alternate negotiator on behalf of students for the Department of Education's 2013 Gainful Employment Negotiated Rulemaking Committee. The committee met for a few days in September, November, and December, with the goal to reach consensus on regulations that would improve the way Gainful Employment (GE) institutions are held accountable to federal dollars, better metrics to evaluate whether GE programs actually benefit students, provide relief for student borrowers who are struggling with large amounts of debt, and to prevent institutions from allowing students to take on unnecessary debt. The committee was not able to reach consensus so now

the process defers to the Secretary of Education to issue a rule on behalf of the Department of Education, through a process call Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (NPRM). The Department will issue a proposed rule, which will be subjected to public comment before the Secretary approves it. USSA believes that there should be a strong rule implemented as soon as possible to protect students from predatory practices at for-profit institutions.

USSA's Vice President was also selected as negotiator for the Department's 2014 Program Integrity and Improvement Negotiated Rulemaking Committee. The Legislative Department will be supporting him in this effort. The first session took place in February and two more sessions will follow in March and April. The topics most critical to students in this negotiated rulemaking process are around campus debit cards and Parent/Grad PLUS loans.

There is far too much work ahead of this organization and its members that we must not wait to get things done. USSA has to ensure that we are all ready. Among the many ways to organize, the 2014 mid-term elections are around the corner—just saying. As students we must remember that the time to organize isn't only when our programs are in jeopardy but that it is always our time to organize. I look forward to working with the board and membership to carrying out our priorities.

Training Department (as prepared by Athena Matyear)

The Training Department has been busy coordinating and facilitating trainings and events that exemplify USSA's commitment to student rights via direct action organizing and help its membership execute strategies for their various campaigns.

Between July and December of 2013, 100 student leaders from across the country participated in the GrassRoots Organizing Weekend (GROW) Training. Between October and December 2013, the Training Department went through a transition period while we went through the process to hire a new Training Director.

In January we fulfilled the great accomplishment of recruiting and hiring 10 Electoral Action Training (EAT) Trainers as part of the 2014-2016 class. Our trainers are from all across the country: Washington, Oregon, California, Texas, Wisconsin, Florida, Virginia, Massachusetts and New Jersey. The Trainers participated in a three-day long training facilitated by Naomi Long of Campus Camp Wellstone and Carmen Berkeley, USSA Alumni and former President. Since then, we have hosted two Electoral Action Trainings—one in Arizona with the Arizona Students Association and one at the University of Wisconsin, Madison with the Multicultural Student Center. 40 Students have participated in the Electoral Action Training in the first month and a half of hiring an Electoral Action Training Class. We hope to bring that number up to 200 by offering an EAT Track here at LegCon in order to further USSA's 2014 Vote Campaign and engage more students in electoral work this year.

The Training Department also hosted a GROW at Northern Illinois University in February—training 35 students in methods of direct action organizing. The Training Department is currently in the process of planning at least five more trainings for Spring 2014. The Training Department is also working with the Student Labor Action Project to host GROWs with SLAP Chapters across the country. The goal of the Training Department for 2014 is to host 20 EAT and 20 GROW Trainings—40 trainings total—in order to train at least 1,000 students before the calendar year ends.

A large focus of the Training Department between January and March of 2014 has been planning and

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preparing for the 45th annual LegCon: soliciting and collecting workshop proposals, working through logistics, guiding students through the registration process, assisting in recruitment, preparing materials, building relationships with partner organizations and campuses, and working with all USSA departments to create a life-changing experience for students at LegCon.

The Training Department is excited about the great work that has been done so far this year and can't wait for what we will accomplish in the second half of the year.

Field Department

This year has been one of transition and opportunity for the Field Department at USSA. The USSA Field Department at present consists of the National Field Director, the West Coast National Field Associate, the Empire Garden National Field Associate, and the Student Labor Action Project Coordinator, with help from the officers. With this amazing team, the Field Department has been able to make great strides in developing campaign strategy, making field visits, developing educational and campaign materials, helping students organize campus events, and helping students run campaigns on-campus for educational access, support of underserved communities, and USSA membership.

National Campaigns

Coming out of the December 2013 federal budget agreement, USSA is working to get increased funding for key educational programs through its "More Money, Less Problems" campaign. This campaign seeks to restore funding for TRIO programs, Work Study, Supplemental Educational Opportunity Grants, and Minority Serving Institutions. It also seeks to strengthen the Pell Grant.

The other big campaign the Field Department has been working on is the Debt-Free Future campaign, which is a collaboration between USSA and Jobs with Justice. Debt-Free Future is a multi-pronged campaign to address the crisis of student debt. USSA has been engaging in the campaign over the past two years with actions around Sallie Mae and the Department of Education's role in increasing student debt. More recently, USSA has been helping to advance state-level legislation with state student associations, helping campuses organize around tuition freezes and the potential for tuition rollbacks, and providing political support and grassroots action for the regulatory work of the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau.

The Field Department has been integral in driving both of these campaigns forward. The More Money, More Problems campaign has already gotten hundreds of postcards to legislators signed, and on March 6, USSA and SLAP students on over a dozen campuses delivered letters to their campus administration officials asking them to disclose college and university contracts with for-profit financial firms, including student lenders.

Education

Coming out of the September 2013 Board retreat, the Field Department was asked to create an educational presentation covering the history of higher education in the US, discussing modern trends in education, and overviewing USSA campaigns. The result was the "Education at a Crossroads" Teach-in, which was given in full or in modified form 16 times on 13 campuses in 5 states, educating over 800 students on higher education issues.

Additionally, coming out of the January 2014 Board of Directors Meeting, the West Coast National Field Associate developed a postcard and presentation around the federal Budget and Appropriations process and the USSA “More Money, Less Problems” campaign.

Expanding & Keeping Membership

USSA’s Field Department is actively working to expand membership. In New Jersey, the Empire Garden National Field Associate is coordinating referendum to join USSA at \$2/student/year on three campuses: Rutgers-New Brunswick, Montclair State University, and Rowan University. On the West Coast, our West Coast National Field Associate is helping move a referendum to fund USSA at Western Washington University, as well as a few other campuses. These are just a few of the campuses where USSA is expanding.

Field Presence

USSA staff have made field visits to 40 campuses in 16 states this year. It’s been a great opportunity to meet students from all of the following campuses:

Arizona State University-Tempe, University of Arizona, Northern Arizona University (AZ); City College of San Francisco, UC-Irvine, UCLA, UC-Merced, UC-Riverside, UC-San Diego, UC-Santa Barbara, UC-Santa Cruz (CA); Community College of Denver, Metropolitan State University of Denver, University of Colorado Denver (CO); Central Connecticut State University (CT); George Washington University (DC); Iowa State University (IA); University of Maryland-College Park (MD); University of Massachusetts, Amherst (MA); Eastern Michigan University, University of Michigan-Ann Arbor (MI); University of Missouri-Kansas City, UM-St. Louis (MO); Montclair State University, Rowan University, Rutgers-Newark, Rutgers-New Brunswick, William Paterson University (NJ); Lane Community College, Portland State University, Southern Oregon University, University of Oregon, (OR); Castleton State College, Johnson State College, University of Vermont, Vermont Technical College (VT); University of Virginia (VA); Evergreen State College, Western Washington University (WA); UW-Madison (WI)

In addition, USSA staff have had presence at the National Student Power Convergence, UCSA’s Congress and Students of Color Conference, OSA’s Oregon Students of Color Conference and Northwest Student Leadership Conference, WSA’s Student Lobby Day, Student Association of Michigan’s Board meeting, the Colorado Student Power Convergence, the Virginia Student Power Convergence, the Vermont Student Power Conference, the California Student Union Statewide Conference, the Connecticut Student Organization Summit, as well as some of the regular board meetings of Oregon Student Association, University of California Student Association, Washington Student Association, Vermont Student Union, and New Jersey United Students.

Highlights from New Jersey (prepared by Akin Olla & John Aspray)

The Empire Garden National Field Associate, in addition to coordinating the referendum, has been working to support a few local campaigns, including Rowan’s Project 3, which seeks the establishment of a Multicultural center, an LGBTQ center, and a Womyn’s center at Rowan University, as well as local Tuition Freeze campaigns at several campuses. The Empire Garden National Field Associate in 2013 helped support the NJUS in their work on the NJ DREAM Act, which was won December 2013.

The Empire Garden National Field Associate has also been working to establish an alumni network for New Jersey United Students, and lay the foundation for NJUS’s Summer in the City internship this year. Lastly, the Empire Garden National Field Associate has acted as an auxiliary staffer for New Jersey

for New Jersey United Students.

Highlights from the West Coast (prepared by Chirag Bhakta)

Along with the vital work being done by the statewide student associations, the West Coast (Best Coast) region has been very busy working to ensure that students from the Evergreen State of Washington down to the Golden State of California are being educated on issues pertaining to the current situation in higher education, and advocated for to improve accessibility and affordability.

The USSA Teach-In, “Education at a Crossroads,” was first given at UC Irvine, and then spread to up and down the region to many campuses including, UC San Diego, UW Tacoma, WSU Vancouver, and UC Merced. The comprehensive workshop on everything from the history of higher education to an analysis of an austerity-based economic system was well-received at each campus and students engaged in stimulating discussions during and after each presentation. More teach-ins are scheduled to be presented in the coming weeks and months.

The Daily Bruin, the UCLA campus newspaper, ran an op-ed penned by a member of the National Affairs division of the External Vice President’s office about why their student government should ensure membership in USSA.

Four of the new Electoral Action Training (EAT) trainers are from the West Coast and are looking to be great ambassadors for USSA in the near future.

Moving forward, the West Coast will be focused on running the Budget and Appropriations campaign—More Money, Less Problems. They are already leading the pack by getting 200 postcards signed at the Northwest Student Leadership Conference in Portland, Oregon. The next few months will be very exciting as we build momentum for winning our demands and setting the stage for the reauthorization of the Higher Education Act.

Student Labor Action Project (as prepared by Beth Huang)

The Student Labor Action Project has been organizing to connect student and labor struggles and to kick corporate interests out of higher education. With the transition of a new National SLAP Coordinator, SLAP has focused its internal organizational efforts on long-term visioning while running local and national campaigns.

SLAP is using the Campus Compact campaign framework to map university decision-making structures and to organize for student and community power on campus and in the community. At the University of Oregon, SLAP has mobilized undergraduate students to attend the graduate student union’s bargaining sessions and has worked with the local coalition of Jobs with Justice to organize for paid sick days in Eugene. Similarly, the newly formed Vermont Student Union has been organizing with the Vermont Worker Center to pass paid sick days state legislation. At the University of Central Florida, SLAP has gathered hundreds of petition signatures to eliminate the parking pass fee for workers on campus and has interviewed campus workers about how the parking fees affect them. In addition, UCF SLAP mobilized students to support the faculty union, which won their first raise in several years.

In addition to standing with campus workers, two SLAP chapters have moved in an exciting new direction, shifting their focus to unionize student workers. In the context of the student debt crisis and big money’s attack on good jobs, student workers need to start organizing now. University of Oregon SLAP hosted a teach-in about organizing student workers. City College of San Francisco SLAP is

is organizing for a student living wage at campus jobs, particularly because working-class students cannot afford to live in a rapidly gentrifying city. Finally, with the only undergraduate resident assistant union, UMass-Amherst SLAP is in the thick of a campaign to organize peer mentors.

While the USSA Board of Directors has engaged national strategy of the Debt-Free Future campaign, the SLAP network has worked to advance the campaign on a local level. Following the publication of the “Disorientation Guide,” SLAP at Western Washington University has strategized to kick Higher One, a for-profit financial aid disburser, off of campus. Nationally, several SLAP chapters delivered letters to their university presidents and demanding disclosure of financial ties to corporations on the March 6 day of action coordinated by Higher Ed, Not Debt.

Conclusion

Thank you for taking the time to read our midyear report! As you can see we have accomplished much this year and still have a long way to go to make sure that students have access to an affordable education in the United States. We know that without students at the table in DC and across the country, the decisions made will not be the best for us. This conference is a stepping-stone for your involvement and growth as a leader, organizer, and student to find more ways to get involved. If you want to know more please don't hesitate to contact your national staff!

For the students!

The USSA Staff

Regions

Atlantic (DC, DE, MD, PA, VA, WV),
Empire Garden (NY, NJ, PR, Vir. Islands)
Great Lakes (IL, IN, MI, MN, OH, WI)
Great Plains (IA, KS, MO, NE)
Golden Pacific (CA, HI, NV, Guam, Amer. Samoa)
New England (CT, ME, MA, NH, RI, VT)
Pacific Northwest (AK, ID, OR, WA)
Rocky Mountain (AZ, CO, MT, ND, SD, UT, WY)
South Central (AR, LA, NM, OK, TX)
Southeast (AL, FL, GA, KY, MS, NC, SC, TN)

Affiliates

National People of Color Student Coalition (NPCSC)
National Women's Student Coalition (NWSC)
National Queer Student Coalition (NQSC)

Caucuses

Community College Caucus
DREAM Caucus
First Peoples Caucus
International Student Caucus
Graduate and Professional Student Caucus
La Coalición
Minority-Serving Institution
Multi/Biracial Caucus (MBRC)
National Asian Pacific American Student Coalition (NAPASC)
National Coalition of Students with Disabilities (NCSDD)
National Queer Students of Color Caucus (NQSOC)
Non Traditional/First Generation
People of African Descent (POAD)
People of Middle Eastern and South Asian Descent Caucus (POMESAD)
Students of the Jewish Community
Veterans Caucus
Women of Color Caucus
Working Class Student Caucus

SSAs

New Jersey United Students (NJUS)
Oregon Student Association (OSA)
Student Association of Michigan (SAM)
United Council of UW Students
University of California Student Association (UCSA)
Washington Student Association (WSA)
Vermont State College Student Association (VSCSA)
Arizona Student Association (ASA)

NATIONAL STAFF



Sophia Zaman, President

Alma Mater - University of Massachusetts Amherst
 What's one thing you wish you knew when you were a teenager? *It's okay that you're not white. Brown womyn rock. (Also, when you meet Chirag, annoy him incessantly)*



Maxwell Love, Vice President

Alma Mater - University of Wisconsin-Madison
 What's one thing you wish you knew when you were a teenager? *Life is short.*



Athena Matyear, Training Director

Alma Mater - University of Texas at El Paso
 What's one thing you wish you knew when you were a teenager? *The lessons you need to learn you will learn with time--enjoy the trip and be grateful for every day. Also, start listening to Mastodon ASAP.*



Jessica Cendana, Operations Manager

Alma Mater - Sacramento State Go Hornets! Bzzz
 What's one thing you wish you knew when you were a teenager? *We are all made of stardust.*

Kalwis Lo, Legislative Director

Alma Mater - University of California, Santa Cruz

What's one thing you wish you knew when you were a teenager? *Not that it was that long ago but I wish I knew how cold DC could get during the winter. I would've saved up for a better coat and warmer clothes.*



John Aspray, National Field Director

Alma Mater - Rutgers University-New Brunswick

What's one thing you wish you knew when you were a teenager? *I wish I had been told to get as much sleep as possible, while I still could.*



**Chirag Gunvantbhai Bhakta,
West Coast National Field Associate**

Alma Mater - City College of San Francisco & THE California State University, Fullerton

What's one thing you wish you knew when you were a teenager? *The Sun is just one of over 100 billion stars in our galaxy, the Milky Way, and the Milky Way is just one of over 100 billion galaxies our universe. (Also, when you meet Sophia, pretend she's not there. Just don't look down.)*



NATIONAL STAFF



**Akin Olla,
Empire Garden National Field Associate**

Alma Mater- Rowan University

What's one thing you wish you knew when you were a teenager? *I wish I'd known about the potential and power of an organized high school student body.*



Beth Huang, SLAP Coordinator

Alma Mater - University of Wisconsin Madison

What's one thing you wish you knew when you were a teenager? *Mom and Dad are totally oblivious.*

A Brief History of NSA and USSA

By Angus Johnston, historian of American student activism

Introduction

Although discussions of the student movement frequently begin and end with the radical activism of the 1960s, the real history of the movement in the United States begins far earlier. American students have been organizing on a national level for more than a century, and USSA has been an important part of that organizing since the end of the Second World War—as a nascent national student union in the late forties, as a cautiously liberal group in the fifties, as an increasingly activist federation of student governments in the sixties, as a radical antiwar outfit in the early seventies, and as a broad-based progressive advocacy organization in the eighties and nineties. Today USSA remains the largest, most inclusive national student association in the United States.

The Beginning

In 1946 students from the United States and 37 other countries met in Prague, Czechoslovakia, to launch the International Union of Students, a confederation of national student unions. Although strong national student organizations had flourished in the United States in the 1920s and 1930s, each had disbanded by the end of the war, and the Americans returned from Prague convinced of the need for a fresh start. Hundreds of students attended a planning meeting in Chicago that December, and the Constitutional Convention of the United States National Student Association (NSA) was held at the University of Wisconsin at Madison the following summer.

NSA was oriented around campus concerns from its earliest days, working to strengthen student government, enhance civil liberties on the American campus, and expand access to higher education. NSA's 1947 Student Bill of Rights was a milestone in American student history—one of the nation's earliest and most comprehensive articulations of the principle that students were deserving of adult respect within the university.

From the beginning, some NSA members argued that the association should avoid taking on political causes, but others contended that the membership had a right to address any problem that affected students and a responsibility to consider issues of national concern. NSA discovered early on that there was no easy way to make the distinction between 'political' and 'non-political' actions—the association alienated some of its members when it went on the record in opposition to educational segregation at its first meeting, and again when it elected Ted Harris, an African American from Pennsylvania, to its presidency in 1948.

In 1951 NSA condemned "mccarthyism" after a lengthy debate on whether capitalizing the term would be too personal an attack on Senator McCarthy himself, and in 1953 the association condemned South African apartheid, but only as it affected higher education. Such cautious liberalism drew harsh criticism from both the right and the left, with conservatives accusing NSA of being a Communist front while the Communist Party denounced it as fascist.

The Cold War and the Fifties

The 1950s brought financial difficulties, and in 1951 three of NSA's five staff positions were eliminated. The US government had taken a new interest in student politics as the cold war got underway, particularly once it became obvious that IUS was permanently aligned with the Communist bloc. Although NSA embraced a range of student voices, the group's leadership was generally moderate, and NSA's relationship with the government was a comfortable one.

It was in this context that the Central Intelligence Agency began secretly funding NSA's international office in the early 1950s. For more than a decade, a small clique of NSA officers and staff worked closely with CIA officials, while others in NSA leadership, particularly those who worked solely on domestic issues, were kept in the dark. Although a few students later claimed that their co-operation had been coerced, for the most part they were motivated by self-interest and a sincere belief in the rightness of the government's cause.

The Movements of the Sixties

By the end of the 1950s NSA was becoming more politically active, and in 1959 the group hired an alumna named Constance Curry to open a civil rights office in Atlanta. When student sit-ins against segregation began to spread throughout the South in early 1960, Curry provided funds and logistical support to the activists, and when the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee (SNCC) was organized that spring, she was made a member of its executive committee.

NSA played a vital role in the wave of student activism that rose in the early 1960s, doing much to advance a student-centered vision for the American university. Many of the founders of the Students for a Democratic Society (SDS) became involved in national activism through NSA, and thousands of students got their first glimpse of the civil rights and antiwar movements through NSA events. Although SNCC and SDS were often critical of NSA's national leadership's moderation, they relied on the association for volunteers, publicity, and national networking.

At the same time, right-wing criticism of NSA grew sharper. At the 1961 Congress the newly formed Young Americans for Freedom (YAF) attempted to seize power in NSA, charging that it was controlled by the "far left." In 1966 a California Congressman attacked NSA on the floor of the House, citing a State Department grant that had funded a trip to Vietnam by the NSA president, and urging Congress to "consider requiring the Department to cease its support of this radical organization which is subverting American foreign policy."

By the mid-sixties, many of NSA's incoming officers were perturbed by the group's CIA ties, and the association began taking steps to disentangle itself from the agency. By late 1966 CIA funding had slowed to a trickle, and the relationship was on the verge of disintegration.

Eventually the question of how to resolve the dilemma was taken out of NSA's hands. Michael Wood, a former staffer who had been informed of the arrangement, told a reporter from Ramparts magazine, which broke the story in February 1967. The Ramparts article exposed the CIA's links to NSA and a long list of other supposedly independent organizations, sparking a national scandal.

New Directions

In the wake of the revelations, however, NSA thrived. The 1967 Congress passed a resolution endorsing the Black Power movement's struggle "by any means necessary," and withdrew NSA from membership in the cold war international group it had founded. Delegates renewed the association's commitment to student power and university reform, and cheered when a network television commentator called NSA "a left-wing radical outfit."

That same Congress launched one of the most extraordinary campaigns in American political history. Allard Lowenstein, a former NSA president and Democratic activist, persuaded the group to initiate a task force to attempt to deny Lyndon Johnson renomination for President in 1968, replacing him with a candidate who was committed to ending the war in Vietnam. This "Dump Johnson" movement led directly to Eugene McCarthy and Robert Kennedy's antiwar candidacies for President of the United States, and culminated in LBJ's stunning early 1968 announcement that he would not seek re-election.

NSA, the National Student Lobby, and USSA

NSA now reached out to constituencies it had slighted in the past. The 1969 Congress featured workshops on gay rights and a new pledge of support to activists of color, and two years later the association elected its first ever woman president, Marge Tabankin. At the same time, however, the ideal of liberal-left coalition that had guided NSA through the previous decade came under strain as the association's membership was further radicalized by assassinations, government brutality, and the continuing war. As the sixties closed and the seventies began SNCC faded away, SDS shattered, and NSA turned toward more radical attempts to achieve social change.

In 1972 NSA's president traveled to North Vietnam to gather evidence of US violations of international law, hoping to lay groundwork for a war crimes trial. Actions like these earned NSA a place on President Nixon's infamous "enemies list," and caused division among activists as well.

In 1971 a group of California students had broken away, dissatisfied with NSA's lack of focus on legislative organizing. They soon formed a new group, the National Student Lobby (NSL), to lobby the states and the federal government on issues such as economic access to higher education.

But the pendulum was already swinging back. In 1974 NSA created a separate foundation to carry out non-political work. This move allowed the association to become more involved in lobbying, and encouraged cooperation with NSL. In August 1978 a joint meeting of the two groups overwhelmingly approved a merger, naming the new group the United States Student Association. Leadership was chosen from the ranks of both, and at the prodding of the National Third World Student Coalition, today known as the National People of Color Student Coalition (NPCSC), new guidelines were put in place to ensure the diversity of campus delegations.

Grassroots Legislative Work and Student Activism

USSA won legislative victories on a variety of issues in the years that followed. Direct funding referenda and other new income sources provided financial stability, and made it possible for the organization to provide new services. In the early 1980s USSA began to provide organized assistance to state student associations, and in 1985 the group co-sponsored the first Grass Roots Organizing Weekend (GROW) for campus leaders. In 1991 USSA entered a new era of activism with the hiring of its first regional field organizer, and in 1999 the association partnered with Jobs With Justice to create the Student Labor Action Project (SLAP), an effort to connect students with their surrounding communities and help them form new relationships with on-campus workers.

USSA took a bold step toward multicultural leadership in 1989 when the Congress mandated that people of color fill half the seats on association's Board of Directors. The diversity of the NPCSC delegation guaranteed that no racial group would gain a majority of seats, and ensured communication and organizing across racial lines at the highest levels of the organization. In succeeding years similar amendments ensured the representation of women and LGBT students on the board, and USSA entered its second half-century with a model of multiculturalism that was based on coalition and commonality of interest.

The last few years have presented new challenges and new opportunities to USSA and its members, as students across the country have met rising tuition and student debt, decreased higher education funding, and administrative and police crackdowns on dissent with a new wave of student activism. USSA's place in the new student movement is one of the major questions of the current moment.

Conclusion

In 1949 an educational journal declared that NSA was charting a course "between the extremes" of American political thought, and two decades later Newsweek reported that NSA's membership extended "to the right of [YAF founder] Bill Buckley and to the left of [SDS founder] Tom Hayden." That both of these statements remain true today is a testament to USSA's strength, and indicates the unique position that the United States Student Association occupies in American history.

USSA is the oldest and largest student group in the country, and in many ways its story is the story of the last six decades of the American student movement. Few advocacy organizations have been as successful in adapting to changing times, and no group has ever educated and inspired to action as many students. As American higher education moves into the future, USSA remains a significant force on the American campus and beyond.

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Angus Johnston is a historian of American student activism and the founder of the website studentactivism.net. He served as USSA's National Corporate Secretary from 1990 to 1992, and later wrote his doctoral dissertation on the history of the National Student Association. He lives in New York City, travels frequently to speak and consult with student governments and activist groups, and can be reached by email at johnston@fecko.com or via Twitter at @studentactivism.

USSA HIRING ANNOUNCEMENTS

Legislative Director

United States Student Association:

The United States Student Association, the country's oldest and largest national student-led organization, develops current and future leaders and amplifies the student voice at the local, state, and national levels by mobilizing grassroots power to win concrete victories on student issues.

United States Student Association Foundation:

The United States Student Association Foundation ensures the pipeline of effective student leadership by facilitating education, training and other development opportunities at national, state and local levels in advocating for issues that affect students.

Responsibilities:

- Represent USSA on Capitol Hill, in the White House, and the Department of Education through consistent lobbying and relationship building with key offices and committees.
- Work in coalition with other national organizations to promote the priorities of USSA.
- Provide information and analysis on legislation affecting students and present at various national conferences.
- Develop monthly Legislative updates that clearly articulate the process by which our issues are being affected.
- Work with the Grassroots Legislative Liaison on our Board of Directors to do monthly Legislative Action Calls to our membership to make sure they are up to date on all relevant legislation for students
- Work with other USSA departments to develop and implement USSA campaigns by assisting with targeting, messaging, and other areas
- Create informational materials on USSA Legislative Priorities and federal processes.
- Help coordinate and staff USSA's national conferences
- Develop a tracking system for the meetings that are relevant to our issues.
- Develop Legislative Action committees with student leaders at each of our direct member campuses

Preferred Qualifications/Experience:

- Excellent written and verbal communication skills.
- Experience with legislative process, lobbying, and higher education issues.
- Experience with student government, student political organizations, coalitions, and grassroots organizing.
- Ability to decipher complex legislative issues and explain to USSA membership.
- Self-motivated, out-going, organized, detail-oriented, and skilled with time management.
- Willingness to work evenings, weekends, and travel extensively if necessary
- An understanding of various barriers to higher education affecting students

Salary and Benefits: Base salary of \$35,535, full health insurance, 2 weeks paid vacation, paid holidays, and assistance with loan repayment.

To apply, submit a cover letter, resume, 3 references and a 2 page writing sample to Jessica Cendana at manager@usstudents.org by April 7th, 2014. Email subject shall state: "Legislative Director". Please no phone calls, faxes or mail in applications.

USSA is an equal opportunity/affirmative action employer. People of color, women, gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender and differently-abled people are strongly encouraged to apply.

WASHINGTON, D.C. MARCH 14TH - 17TH, 2014

USSA HIRING ANNOUNCEMENT

West Coast National Field Associate

United States Student Association:

The United States Student Association, the country's oldest and largest national student-led organization, develops current and future leaders and amplifies the student voice at the local, state, and national levels by mobilizing grassroots power to win concrete victories on student issues.

United States Student Association Foundation:

The United States Student Association Foundation ensures the pipeline of effective student leadership by facilitating education, training and other development opportunities at national, state and local levels in advocating for issues that affect students.

Field Department:

The Field Department led by the National Field Director is the organizing arm of USSA/F. It is currently comprised of the National Field Director, 2 National Field Associates, Vice President, and SLAP Coordinator. The department works to implement USSA/Fs programs and campaigns on USSA member campuses, while helping to expand USSAs base and prepare students to be fully engaged in the upcoming 2014 election. The purpose of the department is to build power for students through running campaigns on issues that impact students' lives while developing student leaders and building strong student organizations at the local, state, and national level. The West Coast National Field Associate works with student leaders in the region—states include but are not limited to: CA, OR, WA—in a variety of roles but always with the end goal of building the student movement and making an impact in their everyday lives. The expected start date is May 1st, 2014 in Washington, D.C for transition and staff development. The West Coast National Field Associate position will be based full time in Olympia, Washington. The West Coast National Field Associate will be directly part of the Field Department of USSA/F.

Responsibilities:

- Work with the National Field Director to develop USSA campaign plans and organizing materials for national campaigns.
- Implement national field plan including field visits and grassroots campus campaigns through planning, implementation, and evaluation.
- Train students across the western region of the country in grassroots organizing and electoral organizing principles, strategy and skills
- Collaborate in planning, recruiting for, and staffing of two annual USSA conferences and other USSA sponsored trainings.
- Promote the department, USSA, and USSAF at conferences, coalition meetings, mailings, and through day-to-day contact with people.
- Represent USSA among field based coalitions in the absence of the National Field Director
- Developing and supervising diverse and strong coalition on campuses that include student governments and student organizations (Student of Color, LGBTQ, Women, etc.)
- Responsible for implementing USSA's National Field Plan and Electoral 2014 Plan for their respective state and campuses.
- Work to recruit and retain USSA members in their respective states.
- Organizing and conducting regional/state/campus trainings and strategy sessions.
- Making field visits to member campuses and State Student Associations around the country
- Assist in the development of National People of Color Student Coalition & its affiliates
- Develop materials around affirmative action and recruitment & retention programs of underrepresented students.
- Research/gather information around student of color issue campaigns.
- Focus on organizing Minority Serving Institutions (Historically Black Colleges & Universities, Hispanic Serving Institutions & Tribal Colleges)
- Working with the National Field Director to begin the development of SSAs in member states and prospective member states

USSA'S 45TH NATIONAL GRASSROOTS LEGISLATIVE CONFERENCE

USSA HIRING ANNOUNCEMENTS

Preferred Experience

- Understanding of Direct Action Organizing.
- Experience managing and training staff and or volunteers.
- Student, student government, state wide system associations and/or community organizing experience.
- Experience organizing in/with student or color communities.
- Electoral Organizing experience.
- Experience in Coalition development.
- Participation in Grassroots Organizing Weekend, Electoral Action Training or Midwest Academy training a plus.
- Experience working with USSA or higher education access issues.
- Excellent written and verbal communication skills.
- Self-motivated, outgoing, detailed-oriented.
- Willingness to work evening, weekends, and travel.
- Experience with online social networks, websites and online organizing

Salary and Benefits

- Base salary of \$33,475, full health insurance, 2 weeks paid vacation, paid holidays, and assistance with loan repayment

To apply, submit a cover letter, resume, 3 references and a 2 page writing sample to Jessica Cendana at manager@usstudents.org May 1st. Email subject shall state: "West Coast National Field Associate". Please no phone calls, faxes or mail in applications.

USSA is an equal opportunity/affirmative action employer. People of color, women, gay, lesbian, bisexual,

WASHINGTON, D.C. MARCH 14TH - 17TH, 2014

Summer Internship

United States Student Association/Foundation:

The United States Student Association (USSA) is the nation's oldest and largest student association, representing hundreds of thousands of college and university students to Congress, the White House, and the Department of Education. USSA offers organizing assistance and networking to student organizations and statewide student associations (SSAs). USSA believes education is a right and works to expand access to higher education for all people. The USSA Foundation (USSA/F) is the educational training and research arm of USSA. USSA/F provides organizing skills-training and educational resources on many issues affecting students' access to higher education. The following internship positions are available full-time or half-time, throughout the year. We are willing to work with students to obtain academic credit.

Preferred Skills:

- Good research skills including internet and library
- Analytical and critical thinking/writing
- Awareness about issues of educational access
- Some competency with basic Microsoft software programs and desktop publishing
- Experience in special events planning such as press conferences and forums
- Experience working with diverse communities
- Experience with grassroots organizing

Legislative Department:

Accompany the Legislative Director to congressional hearings and lobby visits. Work with the Legislative Director to track legislation, develop and disseminate legislative alerts and analysis, and work with the USSA staff to organize USSA's National Student Congress. A cursory knowledge of the legislative process is preferred.

Field Department:

Learn firsthand the ins and outs of grassroots organizing on a national level. Work with the National Field Director on developing materials, campaign strategy, and conference planning. Come acquire new skills in the area of direct action organizing.

Training Department:

Home to the Grassroots Organizing Weekend (GROW) and Electoral Action Training (EAT), the Training Department provides students with the skills to win concrete victories for students. Interns in this department will work to help organize trainings that take place on campuses across the country and will help to plan for USSA's National Student Congress.

Salary and Benefits: The start/finish date will be contingent upon the students' academic calendar, usually from May/June to August/September. Interns will receive a stipend of \$1,500. The cost of housing will not be covered.

To apply, submit a cover letter, resume, 3 references and a 2 page writing sample to Maxwell Love at vp@usstudents.org by April 14th, 2014. Email subject shall state "USSA Summer Internship."

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USSA'S 45TH NATIONAL GRASSROOTS LEGISLATIVE CONFERENCE

COMMUNITY GUIDELINES

These are the guidelines USSA expects conference participants to follow in order to create a safe and inclusive space for all students.

Assume best intentions

We are all here to learn and improve the lives of students all across the country. Assume when someone is speaking that they have the best intentions.

Use “I” statements

Instead of generalizing your experience, recognize that not everyone thinks the way you do, and use “I think” or “I feel.”

Take care of yourself

There might be times during this space when issues come up for you. Be sure to take a moment when you need it to breathe or leave the room.

Use only the gender pronouns that people state they prefer

(she, he, they, ze, etc.) We recognize that part of the way transphobia works is that it forces us to assume that there are only two genders and forces us to make assumptions about people’s gender based on our perceptions.

Avoid Gendered and Ableist Language

Example, use: you all, everyone, y’all, folks. Not “you guys.” Use: wild or unbelievable. Not “crazy.”

W.A.I.T = Why Am I Talking? Or Why Aren’t I Talking?

If you usually answer questions or speak up, move back. If you are normally someone who doesn’t speak up, this is your opportunity! We want everyone to be able to participate throughout this weekend.

Expect unfinished business

You will find that there will be many instances where in-depth conversations won’t be finished in the amount of time allotted. We invite you to take these conversations back to campus and/or use time outside of workshops at the conference to finish them.

Ouch, Oh, Educate

If someone says something that hurts you, personally or as an ally, say something, by saying ouch. Give one statement on why that statement hurt & give the other person the opportunity to re-explain what they meant or to apologize. If you said something hurtful, show that you understand the impact by saying “oh” and avoid making the same mistake again.

People First Language

Example: people of color, people with disabilities.

Mistakes are awesome... when you learn from them

Mistakes show us what we need to learn, take this experience/training as a learning experience and challenge yourself to learn things you never knew before.

Take vocab breaks

Let’s strive to make sure everyone is on the same page, including acronyms. If you need something broken down, or if you think we should break down a word or phrase, ask for it.

What’s said here, stays here. What’s learned here, leaves here.

We might use examples from our own experiences when breaking down a particular issue. While it’s okay to reference or talk about these experiences outside of this space, it’s not okay to use names or say anyone’s personal information without their explicit consent.

A note on our sexual harassment/assault policy:

USSA does not tolerate any form of sexual harassment or assault in any of our spaces. Perpetrators of any form of violence will be removed from the premises and will be banned from participation in any USSA-sponsored events.

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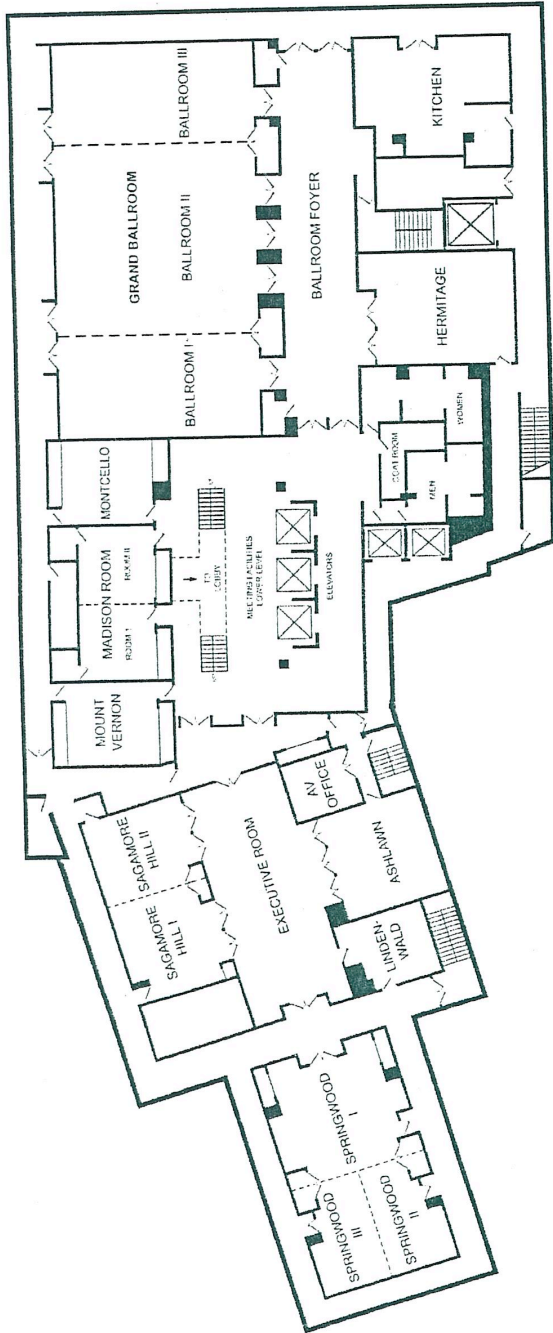


DEMOCRACY INITIATIVE

USSA'S 45TH NATIONAL GRASSROOTS LEGISLATIVE CONFERENCE

WASHINGTON COURT HOTEL MAP

LOWER LOBBY LEVEL



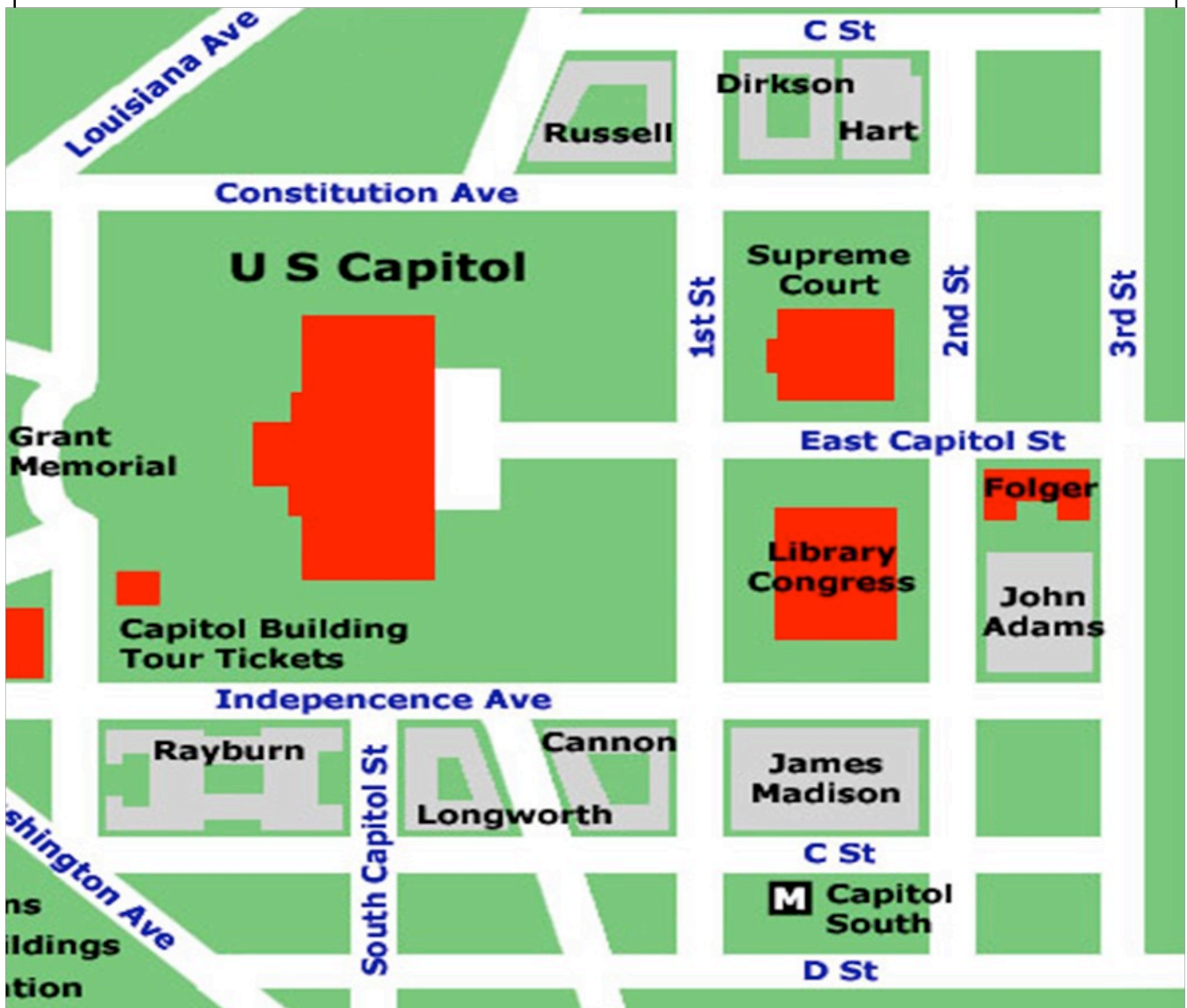
MEZZANINE LEVEL



MAP OF THE CAPITOL

Senate Office Buildings

- Russell Senate Office Building (RSOB)
- Dirksen Senate Office Building (DSOB)
- Hart Senate Office Building (HSOB)



House of Representatives Office Buildings

- Rayburn House Office Building (RHOB)
- Longworth House Office Building (LHOB)
- Cannon House Office Building (CHOB)

United States Student Association 1211 Connecticut Ave. Suite 406, Washington, D.C. 20036
Phone: 202.640.6570 Fax: 202.223/4005 E-Mail: leg@usstudents.org www.usstudents.org

USSA'S 45TH NATIONAL GRASSROOTS LEGISLATIVE CONFERENCE



UNITED STATES

STUDENT ASSOCIATION