

University of Oregon Proposes Cutting Two-Thirds of Labor Education & Research Center Budget

On April 8th, the University of Oregon notified the UO's Labor Education and Research Center (LERC) that its university funding would be cut by 68% – a reduction that would force drastic rollback in programming and probably eliminate half the department's faculty.

The university plans to make cuts to all departments of about 2%-10%. **LERC has been singled out for a cut that will devastate its program.**

LERC faculty teach extension classes for workers around the state of Oregon, as well as classes for UO undergrad and grad students. LERC also provides critical research on issues of economic and employment policy in Oregon and nationally. LERC is one of the country's best-respected academic labor centers.

- LERC is the primary vehicle through which working Oregonians can get access to UO faculty and resources. Thousands of working adults across the state take classes in history, law, economics, politics, collective bargaining and leadership development through LERC. LERC also provides strategic planning and organizational development trainings to help unions adapt to changing technologies and economic conditions.
- Every summer, LERC brings 150 union members from across the Northwest to the UO campus for a 3-day Summer School of intensive classes. For the rest of the year, faculty travel across the state, teaching workers in sawmills, paper plants, hospitals and hotels, schools and bookstores, in agriculture and construction and virtually every major industry.
- LERC also produces top-quality research – including two recent books and a series of policy reports on minimum wage, sick leave and scheduling that provided Oregon lawmakers with critical information for legislative debates.
- LERC faculty teach on campus, serve on dissertation committees, run a union internship program for undergraduate students and an interdisciplinary Labor Research Colloquium for graduate students and faculty. We have connected UO faculty in multiple departments with labor-related fieldwork opportunities.

If the UO's budget cut moves ahead as planned, most of this work will end.