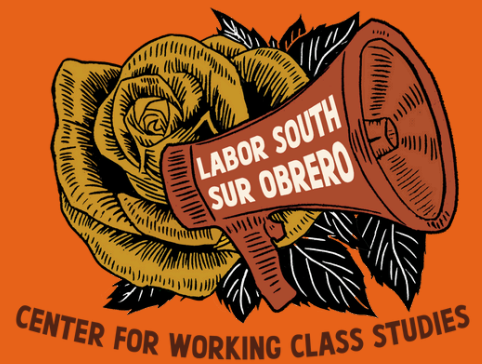


LABOR SOUTH

Center for Working Class Studies

2025 IMPACT REPORT

www.laborsouth.org



Despite the administration's daily assaults on workers, immigrants, universities, unions, nonprofits, and every community that stands for peace, justice, and workers' rights, **Labor South is here and moving forward.**

- It has been **grounding** to hear the concerns of workers (including layoffs, the lack of cost of living raise, unpredictable work schedules, and mental health challenges) in VA, NC, SC, GA, TN, AL, MS, AR, and LA.
- It has been **inspiring** to facilitate discussions and analysis with workers, students, nonprofits, faith leaders and other allies about the lessons we can take from past organizing campaigns to help us through these coming years.
- It has been **validating** to be invited to join strategy sessions with unions, social justice nonprofits, young workers, and allies.

Over the last year, Labor South conducted over **200 one-on-one conversations** with young people, workers, educators, and organizers, which we used to develop our mission, vision, structure, and programs. We continued to **listen** and **organize** through 3 virtual community updates; 3 working groups focused on curriculum, historical archives, and campaign research; and 4 Labor Dialogues with Advisory Committee members who shared about their movement journeys.

We are now clear about where we are going. Using popular organizing, we are bringing **labor history** to current campaigns, building **multi-racial** and **multi-sector alliances**, fostering **multi-generational story telling**, and bringing an **intersectional** lens that links racial, social, and environmental justice issues.

I hope you'll continue to be a part of Labor South by giving, joining a working group, offering your lived experiences, showing up and speaking out. Please join me in continuing to work towards peace, justice & workers' rights this year!

Melinda Wiggins, Director

2025 Impact

Organized young workers, organizers & students to learn about the history of organizing in the South & to gain practical organizing skills

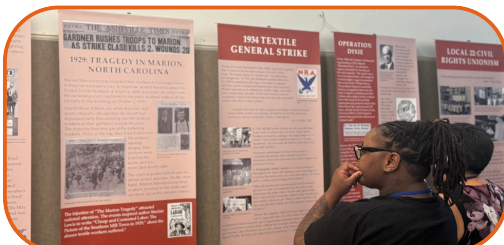
- Hosted our first intern Joe Asamoah-Boadu, Senior at Duke University
- Conducted a Southern labor workshop with students from Student Action with Farmworkers
- Facilitated a community conversation with young workers about the biggest labor issues facing young people

Built the leadership of union members & organizers through training that connects labor history with current campaigns

- Conducted Southern labor history workshops with workers from UNITE HERE, Communication Workers of America (CWA), & United Auto Workers (UAW)
- Participated in the NC AFL-CIO Labor School & hosted their Labor History Revealed exhibit
- Joined the Southern Workers Assembly (SWA) Summit
- Represented at the Union of Southern Service Workers (USSW) Southern Worker Organizing Meeting and Annual Summit
- Trained UE150 members on how the attacks on immigrant workers hurt all workers

Educated social justice organizations, academics, & other allies on organizing & current campaigns

- Conducted community-labor partnership workshops with MDC staff
- Facilitated an Immigrant Worker workshop with Grantmakers Concerned with Immigrants and Refugees (GCIR)
- Participated in the Labor and Working Class History Association conference
- Taught the *Southern Labor in Fiction and Memoir* class through Durham Tech
- Facilitated conversations/workshops across TN to hear about the concerns of workers

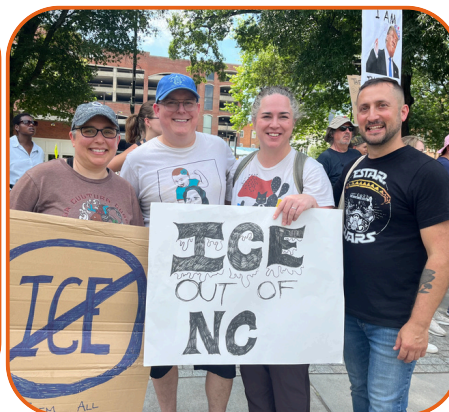


Thanks to the nearly **200** individuals that **donated** to Labor South, including those that hosted house parties, gave a matching gift, & became recurring donors!

Much gratitude to the **USSW** and **UNITE HERE** for being the **first unions** to contract with us & to the **Foundation for a Just Society** and **Z. Smith Reynolds Foundation** for awarding our first grants.

Appreciation to the **Labor South Advisory Committee members** for their time planning, presenting, teaching, fundraising, facilitating, researching, and spreading the word!

Calvin Allen, Melanie Barron, Kelsey Coleman, Ajamu Dillahunt-Holloway, Angeline Echeverría, Raúl Gámez, Robert Korstad, Max Krochmal, Chris Kromm, Steve Lownes, Charles McKinney, David Neal, Paul Ortiz, Yadira Paz-Martinez, Maria Perry, Lekha Shupeck, Melanie Stratton Lopez, Ben Wilkins



Photos from Workers to Workers training, our first house party, NC AFL-CIO labor school, No ICE action, & Workers Interfaith Network workshop.

Special gratitude to the **Institute for Southern Studies** for serving as our fiscal sponsor, **Alex Rodriguez** for designing our website, **tilde Language Justice Cooperative** for translating our documents, **Lisa Croucher** for volunteering her time, **Roan Boucher** (Pollinator Press Art) for creating our logo and designs, and the **members of our working groups** for their time, expertise in labor history, and commitment to the cause!