

AFT National Higher Education Organizing Conference

April 28-30, 2017
MotorCity Casino Hotel
Detroit

SCHEDULE

Thursday, April 27	2
<i>Registration</i>	
Friday, April 28	2-4
<i>Registration</i>	
<i>Continental Breakfast</i>	
<i>Opening Plenary Session</i>	
<i>Workshops</i>	
<i>Luncheon</i>	
<i>Plenary Session</i>	
<i>Workshops</i>	
<i>Alliance of Graduate Employee Locals Business Meeting</i>	
<i>Contingent Faculty Reception</i>	
Saturday, April 29	5-6
<i>Registration</i>	
<i>Continental Breakfast</i>	
<i>Plenary Session</i>	
<i>Workshops</i>	
<i>Lunch</i>	
<i>Workshops</i>	
<i>Plenary Session</i>	
<i>Nonviolent Bystander Intervention Training and Dinner</i>	
Sunday, April 30	6-7
<i>Registration</i>	
<i>Breakfast and Closing Plenary Session</i>	
<i>Closing Remarks</i>	
<i>AFT Higher Education Program and Policy Council Meeting</i>	

THURSDAY, APRIL 27

3:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.

Registration

SALON FOYER

FRIDAY, APRIL 28

7:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.

Registration

SALON FOYER

8:00 a.m. – 9:00 a.m.

Continental Breakfast

SALON AB

9:00 a.m. – 10:00 a.m.

Opening Plenary Session

Lower Ed: The Troubling Rise of For-Profit Colleges in the New Economy

SALON AB

INTRODUCTION: **Mary Cathryn Ricker**,
AFT executive vice president

SPEAKER: **Tressie McMillan Cottom**, assistant professor,
Virginia Commonwealth University; faculty associate, Harvard
University's Berkman Klein Center for Internet & Society

TRESSIE MCMILLAN COTTOM's research on higher education, work and technological change in the new economy has been supported by the Microsoft Research labs' Social Media Collective, The Kresge Foundation, the American Educational Research Association and the UC Davis Center for Poverty Research. Her new book, *Lower Ed: The Troubling Rise of For-Profit Colleges in the New Economy* (The New Press) is out now.

10:30 a.m. – 12:15 p.m.

Workshop Sessions

Organizing for Free College (Part 1)

ROOM MCC 1

As college costs and student debt continue to rise, calls for free college have gained strength across the United States. With a lot of details still unknown, how can our unions embrace the good while working toward the perfect?

Featuring local experience from Chicago, Milwaukee, San Francisco and elsewhere, this workshop will help leaders plan a vision for free college that takes their local political context into account. We will discuss not just the mechanics of these programs but how to engage members who may be skeptical. Any free-college plan must treat the workforce fairly and live up to our values. This workshop will prepare participants to lead conversations in their own locals that can harness this moment of national attention to build power and strengthen public education.

Organizing for Adjunct Equity (Part 1)

ROOM MCC 3

These days, the “gig economy” is getting more and more public attention, but decreasing job security has been a way of life at American colleges and universities for decades. We all have grappled with “adjunctification”—whether you represent an adjunct-only local wrestling with limited resources, a local of full- and part-time faculty fighting to improve working conditions for all, or even a tenure-track faculty local that is seeing full-time jobs and long-term colleagues slowly disappear. We’re all working to get new members involved, to build thriving communities of leaders, and to fight back against legislators and governors who are hacking away at public higher education at alarming rates.

What are the elements of a successful fight for equitable treatment of adjuncts?

How do we build accurate membership lists, engage members and potential members, and productively use feedback from members who may be angry or disillusioned? How do we build and sustain the activist unions we need? What do adjuncts’ struggles have in common with those of other working people, and what struggles are unique to adjuncts?

This two-part workshop will:

- Provide practical organizing tools and skills for assessing your local’s capacity and building a campaign around adjunct equity on your campus;
- Explore a range of tactics for increasing adjunct visibility and community; and

- Feature a mix of real-life examples that have made local and national news (and explore why they did).

We’ve studied the theory—let’s talk about the practice!

Mobilizing Members to Protect Free Speech, Academic Freedom and Academic Integrity (Part 1)

ROOM MCC 4

Our professional missions of teaching, research and service are built on the values of free speech, academic freedom and academic integrity. These values are the basis not only for our institutions’ roles as vehicles for democratic engagement, cultural and scientific innovation, and economic growth, but also for our credibility in providing the information and expertise to solve the pressing issues that face us as a society.

These values are our greatest strength; they are also a target for those who would see the academy transformed from an independent center of inquiry and learning into a partisan vehicle for pushing a political, cultural and economic agenda that is at odds with these values. The faculty role in shared governance is being eroded by administrators who wish to centralize power. Our openness to the discussion and critique of ideas is abused by provocateurs who arrive on campus to spread disinformation and foment hate. And corporate philanthropists and politicians are politicizing grant giving in order to influence academic research in a way that advances their agenda.

These are not isolated incidents. They are part of a long-term and far-reaching campaign to bring the academy to heel as a servant to an ideology and a set of private interests. In order to combat this well-funded attack, we need to mobilize our members and allies to fight for the core values of our profession.

This workshop will provide the knowledge and methods necessary to build power for the fights for the future of our colleges and universities as independent institutions of inquiry and learning.

FRIDAY, APRIL 28

Organizing a Sanctuary Campus (Part 1)

ROOM MCC 2

In response to the Trump administration's coordinated attack on various communities on campus, many AFT locals are leading or joining campaigns to create sanctuary campuses to better protect affected faculty, staff and students. Part 1 of this workshop will introduce the sanctuary campus framework and the legal issues that locals may face when developing and moving a plan for their campuses. Participants will discuss how to assess local resources, identify needs and launch these campaigns on their campuses.

In Part 2 of this workshop, we will discuss what tools the AFT has developed for our locals, share tools developed by locals that others can adopt, and begin to develop national coordination among locals running (or considering running) sanctuary campus campaigns. We will discuss how AFT locals can respond to specific incidents that might occur on your campus—whether that's undocumented members being targeted in an ICE raid, Muslim members being blocked from international travel, or hate crimes on campus. The goal of this workshop is to help provide hands-on training and connect you to resources to run sanctuary campus campaigns that will grow membership and activism in your local.

12:15 p.m. – 1:15 p.m.

Lunch

SOUND BOARD THEATER

1:15 p.m. – 2:45 p.m.

Plenary Session

Building a High-Participation Union

SALON AB

INTRODUCTION: **Emily Drabinski**, secretary, Long Island University Faculty Federation

SPEAKER: **Jane McAleve**y, organizer, author and scholar

JANE MCALEVEY has been senior organizing staff at the national AFL-CIO, was national deputy director for strategic

campaigns for SEIU's Healthcare Division, and continues to lead organizing and negotiation campaigns as a consultant. She worked at the Highlander Research and Education Center as an educator (and as deputy director) in her early 20s. She is currently a postdoctoral fellow with the Labor and Worklife Program at Harvard Law School. Her latest book, *No Shortcuts: Organizing for Power in the New Gilded Age* (Oxford University Press), was released late in 2016.

2:45 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.

Break

3:00 p.m. – 4:30 p.m.

Workshop Sessions

Organizing for Free College (Part 2)

ROOM MCC 1

Organizing for Adjunct Equity (Part 2)

ROOM MCC 3

Mobilizing Members to Protect Free Speech, Academic Freedom and Academic Integrity (Part 2)

ROOM MCC 4

Organizing a Sanctuary Campus (Part 2)

ROOM MCC 2

5:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m.

Alliance of Graduate Employee Locals Business Meeting

ROOM MCC 1

6:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.

Contingent Faculty Reception

AMNESIA

SATURDAY, APRIL 29

7:00 a.m. – 6:00 p.m.

Registration

SALON FOYER

8:00 a.m. – 9:00 a.m.

Continental Breakfast

SALON AB

9:00 a.m. – 10:00 a.m.

Plenary Session

In Our Union We Believe: Organizing for AFT Values, Fighting Against Trump and DeVos

SALON AB

INTRODUCTION: **Mary Cathryn Ricker**,
AFT executive vice president

SPEAKER: **Randi Weingarten**, AFT president

RANDI WEINGARTEN is president of the 1.6 million-member American Federation of Teachers, AFL-CIO, which represents teachers; paraprofessionals and school-related personnel; higher education faculty and staff; nurses and other healthcare professionals; local, state and federal government employees; and early childhood educators.

10:00 a.m. – 10:15 a.m.

Break

10:15 a.m. – noon

Workshop Sessions

Organizing for Free College (Part 1)

ROOM MCC 1

Organizing for Adjunct Equity (Part 1)

ROOM MCC 3

Mobilizing Members to Protect Free Speech, Academic Freedom and Academic Integrity (Part 1)

ROOM MCC 4

Organizing a Sanctuary Campus (Part 1)

ROOM MCC 2

Noon – 1:00 p.m.

Lunch

SOUND BOARD THEATER

1:00 p.m. – 1:15 p.m.

Break

1:15 p.m. – 2:45 p.m.

Workshop Sessions

Organizing for Free College (Part 2)

ROOM MCC 1

Organizing for Adjunct Equity (Part 2)

ROOM MCC 3

Mobilizing Members to Protect Free Speech, Academic Freedom and Academic Integrity (Part 2)

ROOM MCC 4

Organizing a Sanctuary Campus (Part 2)

ROOM MCC 2

3:00 p.m. – 4:15 p.m.

Plenary Session

The Resistance and Why Teachers Are Important

SALON AB

SATURDAY, APRIL 29

INTRODUCTION: **Barbara Bowen**, AFT vice president; president, Professional Staff Congress–City University of New York

POLISHOOK LECTURER: **Frances Fox Piven**, political scientist, Graduate Center of the City University of New York

FRANCES FOX PIVEN has published widely and is known for her work on American politics, especially on the crucial role social movements have repeatedly played in pushing for the expansion of American democracy.

5:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.

Nonviolent Bystander Intervention Training and Dinner (SEPARATE REGISTRATION REQUIRED)

SALON C

This training will be led by AFT leaders, members and staff. Participants will learn about the history and principles of nonviolence and will practice de-escalation techniques that bystanders can use in a variety of scenarios. We will also learn about widespread organizing in communities around the country and how we can take these skills back to our affiliates and locals.

SUNDAY, APRIL 30

8:00 a.m. – noon

Registration

SALON FOYER

9:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.

Breakfast and Closing Plenary

On the March with Our Communities

SALON AB

Our work conducting and supporting teaching and research is more than just about us as professionals; higher education is a social endeavor that reaches far into our communities. Our work in our unions is not just about our members. Unions are important partners in larger efforts for social justice on our campuses, in our communities, throughout our nation and even internationally. We'll be joined by three of the AFT's partner organizations to discuss how their important work intersects with ours, how we've been able to fight together to achieve big wins, and what we can do to move forward together to improve higher education and the lives of the people we serve.

PANELISTS: **Lindsey Berger**, executive director and co-founder, UnKoch My Campus

Nancy Flores, operations director, Voces de la Frontera
Troy Neves, national organizer, United Students Against Sweatshops

MODERATOR: **Erik Loomis**, assistant professor, University of Rhode Island; author of *Out of Sight: The Long and Disturbing History of Corporations Outsourcing Catastrophe* (The New Press)

ERIK LOOMIS' first book, *Out of Sight: The Long and Disturbing Story of Corporations Outsourcing Catastrophe*, explains how corporations have destroyed the working and middle classes in the United States by moving jobs overseas, where they can exploit workers and pollute the environment. His second book, *Empire of Timber: Labor Unions and the Pacific Northwest Forests*, shows how workers used their unions to push their own environmental agenda throughout the 20th century. He writes for the blog *Lawyers, Guns & Money* about labor, the environment, and how these movements intersect

SUNDAY, APRIL 30

both nationally and globally, and his work has appeared in *Dissent*, *The Nation*, the *New Republic* and *Boston Review*, among other publications. He is proud to be named on the right-wing's Professor Watchlist.

11:30 a.m. - 2:30 p.m.

AFT Higher Education Program and Policy Council Meeting

SALON C

Does your local have an issue you'd like to discuss one-on-one with an experienced organizer? Or, maybe, while discussing strategy in workshops is great, what you really need is tactics! Sign up at the conference registration table to visit our organizing booth, which will be located in the Director's Room on Friday and Saturday, to engage with AFT staff and other experienced organizers on:

ORGANIZING HELP FREE

Organizing plans

**Leadership
trainings**

**Communications
plans**

**Social media
assistance**

**Political
programs**

**Data and
technology**

THE ORGANIZER WILL BE IN

THE DIRECTOR'S ROOM
ON FRIDAY AND SATURDAY

