Annual Report July 1, 2018 to June 30, 2019

Submitted by:
Kim Wilson, Director

The Labor Education Center (LEC) has grown in staffing and has attracted additional external funding this year. A key element of the LEC's work is to engage students in the community through credit earning internships. This work has continued to flourish in our community. We continue to focus on growing and strengthening our work with students. Below is a summary of the Center’s work in FY19.

Workers’ Education Program Funding Increases
The University of Massachusetts Dartmouth Arnold M. Dubin Labor Education Center’s Workers’ Education Program (WEP) continues to offer free Adult Basic Education classes funded by the Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education. These classes include English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL) through High School Equivalency Test (HiSET).

WEP’s initial FY2019 Community Adult Learning Center grant award was $675,924. However, early in the fiscal year, the adult education system received a funding increase in the state budget, resulting in an additional $118,443 for the program, bringing our FY2019 Community Adult Learning Center grant award to $794,367. In addition, other state contracts added $249,055 in funding for classes. The WEP has recently surpassed the $1 Million mark in annual funding and has been designated for such special assignments as assisting the Hurricane Maria evacuees.

Labor Education Specialist Position Extended
Chancellor Robert Johnson approved a long-sought extension of the Labor Education Coordinator position to a 12-month position. Until this change took place Labor Education Specialist Camilo Viveiros would suspend his work for two months in the summer, leaving programs and tasks interrupted during that time. One of the important roles of Camilo Viveiros is managing the student intern program, and his efforts for the fall semester were routinely hampered by the 2-month gap in his work. With Chancellor Johnson’s action the involvement of students in the LEC will be made stronger, and Camilo’s work in the community will also be strengthened.
**Labor Education Center Director Appointed to *Future Ready* Working Group**

Director Wilson has been asked to serve on a working group in support of the Chancellor’s *Future Ready* strategic planning process. Ms. Wilson was asked, and readily agreed, to serve on the *Future of Employment: Regional Economic and Workforce Development Working Group*. The group will identify key issues affecting UMass Dartmouth as the economic driver of the region, especially as it relates to matters of concern to workers. It will prioritize 3 – 5 initiatives for consideration by the Future Ready Executive Committee. The Future Ready Report will coincide with the 125th Anniversary of UMass Dartmouth in 2020.

**Work with Students**

**Internships**

This year, four students earned credit through work with the Center. They were from the departments of Political Science, Sociology and Crime and Justice. In addition the LEC has begun working with Law School students and we plan to further develop both efforts.

**Student Journal – Engaging Students in the Craft of Writing**

The LEC, along with our colleagues at Amherst, Lowell, and Boston, have published the *Undergraduate Journal on Work, Labor and Social Movements*. Three UMass Dartmouth students were selected for publication. Congratulations to Elijah Pontes, Folasade Imani Smith and Jesse Johnson. They are now graduates but wrote their articles while students. The journal brings together undergraduate work that displays academic excellence and offers critical insights on the experience of working people and organizations. The journal addresses ideas across disciplines and that deepen our understanding of the ways in which varying axes of oppression, including gender, race/ethnicity, country of origin, language and sexual orientation, shape the lives of workers. The categories for articles are Research, Creative and Activist Reflection. In addition to being included in the publication, the top three pieces in each submission category have received a cash prize. A new edition is in the works.

**Fall River Labor History Walking Tour**

The Labor Education Center deepened its collaboration with public schools in Fall River to host the largest ever Labor History Walking Tour. UMassD LEC interns and Durfee High school students portrayed labor leaders, mill workers, domestic workers and abolitionists. More than 150 students and community members experienced the living history project this year.

**At Students Request Director Wilson Presented Analysis on the Green New Deal and Future Jobs**

UMassD students affiliated with the Sunrise Movement solicited Director Wilson for a presentation on what the framers of the Green New Deal intend with respect to the future of work in the US. The forum was conducted in collaboration with the Sustainability Department and the Leduc Center on April 23. Approximately 30 students and 20 community members attended and participated in a very lively discussion after the presentation.
Staff Member Assists Women’s Studies Class/Professor
Labor Education Specialist Viveiros assisted a Women’s Studies Professor in the recruitment of Jenny Brown, author of *Birth Strike: The Hidden Fight Over Women’s Work*. Main themes are that house work and mothers’ work are poorly paid and that this is reflected in lower birth rates.

LEC Supports Frederick Douglas Unity House Trip
The Center contributed $1000 to support the Frederick Douglas Unity House Social Justice trip to New York City.

LEC Co-Sponsors Film Discussion: Organizing Nurses: Health Care & Women’s Working Conditions Past and Present
Together with the Women’s and Gender Studies Department and the Center for Women, Gender & Sexuality the Labor Education Center co-sponsored a film discussion involving the film “*Organizing Nurses: Health Care & Women’s Working Conditions Past and Present*”, a production of the Massachusetts Nurses Association. The March event attracted Women’s Studies students and featured St. Luke’s nurses interested in learning about the issues in a historic campaign by nurses in the Merrimack Valley region.

Black History Month Event: LEC Co-Sponsors Author Appearance
The LEC co-sponsored an appearance by writer and social justice activist Bill Fletcher. Co-sponsors included Black History 4 Seasons, the Frederick Douglas Unity House, the English Department, and the Cape Verdean Student Association. Approximately 60 people, mostly students, attended and participated. The subject of the February 15th discussion was “Racial Identity & Labor’s Struggle for Equality”. Mr. Fletcher was well-received on campus.

LEC Staff Presented to a Graduate Class, School of Education
At the invitation of Professor Maureen Hall, Director Wilson and Labor Education Specialist Viveiros made a presentation on techniques in popular education. The class met in October.

Law School Student Interns with Labor Education Center
The LEC is pleased to have the services of Aaron Wazlavek, a second-year student at the UMass Dartmouth School of Law and a Public Interest Law Fellow. Aaron is especially suited to work with the Center since he has significant labor movement experience across the nation, and specifically with the dynamics of southern organizing and minority unionism. Aaron recruited a fellow law student to volunteer to translate the WEP booklet into Spanish. He is committed to recruiting other law students to participate in the work of the LEC.

Organizing Training for Students and Union Members
The LEC provided organizing training and support for the Worker and Student Power Symposium at UMass Dartmouth. The Symposium brought together students and union members to work together to advocate for full funding of higher education. The LEC also provided an orientation to organizing for UMass Dartmouth MassPIRG.
Annual Events

Awards Banquet
The LEC enjoyed great success with its annual Awards Banquet, better known as the “Dubin Awards”. Former MTA President Barbara Maddeloni, well-known activist, and Law School advocate, Mardee Xifaras, and retired AFL-CIO Regional Director Jim Snow received this year’s awards, and local retired labor leaders from the area received recognition. UMass Dartmouth Provost Mohammad Karim and Massachusetts AFL-CIO President and UMass Trustee Steve Tolman offered comments to a record turnout. This event serves as our annual fundraiser. The Center netted over $12,000 this year.

Legislative Breakfast
The longstanding practice of holding a Legislative Breakfast on campus was revived this year and by all accounts it was a great success. Partnering with the Greater Southeastern Massachusetts Labor Council, the LEC had a strong turnout of labor and community members, as well as a number of University staff. An estimated 150 participants attended the breakfast held at Woodland Commons and catered by university staff. More than ten members of the Massachusetts House and Senate made appearances, as well as US Representatives William Keating and Joseph Kennedy. Headlining the event were Chancellor Robert Johnson and Massachusetts AFL-CIO President and University Trustee Steve Tolman.

Workers Education Program
The WEP serves low-wage and immigrant workers with ESOL and GED classes, providing critical services to the New Bedford’s working-class community. The WEP has recently surpassed the $1 Million mark in annual funding and has been designated for such special assignments as assisting the Hurricane Maria evacuees. The program has almost 245 students at the moment, reflecting the ethnic, racial, and cultural diversity of an important Massachusetts ‘gateway city’. It ranks among the very top performers among such state supported programs in the Commonwealth.

The WEP is funded by a variety of Massachusetts Department of Education and workforce development agency grants. A major contribution to WEP has been the participation of more than 100 UMassD students who have completed Service Learning as Teaching Assistants. The latter arrangement has enriched the experience of both program participants and the many thoughtful students who have given their time and effort.

HiSET Graduates
The WEP had 14 students who earned their high school equivalency credentials. To accomplish this goal, the students passed the HiSET test. This test is a much more difficult test than in prior years. It is aligned with the College and Career Readiness Standards and the Common Core State Standards.

Labor Committee to Support the Workers’ Education Program
The LEC established a Labor Advisory Committee for the WEP. This group is comprised of area union, university and community leaders. They work together to identify ways that unions and worker organizations can support the WEP in enhancing student opportunities for good jobs,
like union jobs and apprenticeships when possible, and in presenting worker rights information for students in ways helpful to the program. The committee also advocates for the program with elected leaders and union leaders. This year the group helped create a *Finding Good Jobs* pamphlet which includes information about good and bad work experiences of WEP students as well as a list of union job opportunities and necessary education and skills to attain these jobs. Several UMassD students assisted in preparing this pamphlet, Samantha Reid, Joel Martinez, and Kaitley McNeil and Thomas D. Aaron Wazlavek, UMass Law Public Interest Law Fellow.

**Workers’ Education Center Legislative Open House**

The WEP is an increasingly important partner with state government in addressing worker preparedness in the New Bedford area. Consequently, the WEP, with the assistance of the LEC and its own Labor Advisory Committee, held a Legislative Open House on November 7, 2018 so that members of the local delegation, state officials, local office holders, and University officials could see firsthand the work of the Program.

In attendance representing the administration of the university were our new Dean of the College or Arts and Sciences, Pauline Entin, and Associate Vice Chancellor for Public Affairs, John Hoey. The state legislative delegation was represented to Rep. Tony Cabral and Rep. Paul Schmid. Recognized for his 30-year dedication to the university and, in particular to the WEP, was Rep. Bob Koczera. New Bedford City Councilor Dana Rebeiro represented the city. WEP Director Lisa Jochim led the presentation, with opening remarks from the LEC Director Kim Wilson.

**Workers’ Education Program Union Job Fair**

The WEP’s Labor Advisory Committee also helped to organize a Union Job Fair for students. The job fair was held on May 1, 2019 from 11:00am-1:00pm and 6:00pm-8:00pm to allow both morning and evening students the opportunity to attend.

This WEP Union Job Fair was a success. It offered employers an excellent opportunity to meet our adult students who have demonstrated the skills and work ethic that is essential to company and worker success. It also helped our students to learn about the advantages of working a union job. In the weeks prior to the job fair, students worked with their advisor to prepare resumes. After the job fair, a number of students were called for job interviews and hired.

The following companies and unions were represented at the job fair: Stop & Shop Distribution Center/Teamsters Local 25, Brandon Woods New Bedford/1199SEIU, Personal Care Assistants/1199SEIU, Joseph Abboud/UNITEHERE, Klear Vu/UNITEHERE, ATI/United Steel Workers, and Building Pathways South.

**Workers’ Education Program Union Jobs Report**

The LEC provided a detailed report about the employment situation in the New Bedford area and containing a list of area unionized employers. The report was predicated on the idea that WEP students could not be expected to have such information from other sources, and that jobs in the union sector would represent an improvement in wages and benefits for them. Addresses and web links were provided to help make the connections.
LEC Director at Staff Meetings and Graduations
Reflecting the close coordination of effort between the WEP and the LEC, the Director Wilson attends WEP staff meetings. The Director’s presence brings the University and the WEP closer in terms of mission and provides an opportunity for meaningful communication. Additionally, Ms. Wilson addresses the graduating classes at their annual ceremonies.

Center Operations and Outreach
The Center continues to engage stakeholders and strengthen relationships with the local community. Below are ways that we build on this work.

Monthly Steering Committee
The LEC holds monthly steering committee meetings which are led by Kim Wilson, Camilo Viveiros and Lisa Jochim. These meetings help determine priorities and discuss ways to increase our reach and effectiveness. The Steering Committee is a very active and dedicated group of twelve labor and community leaders and three faculty members.

Advisory Committee Meeting
Our Advisory Board met in December and received a full report on LEC activities. More than two dozen members came together during the busy holiday season. Special presentations were made by two recently graduated students who took part in projects sponsored by the LEC in the past year.

Director Wilson gave an update of the Banquet, the Women’s Fund Grant to train trainers of immigrant women on workers’ rights, and the LEC’s work in support of the Building Pathways South Program. She also provided advance notice of the upcoming Legislative Breakfast and a soon to be announced event with activist and author Bill Fletcher. Labor Education Specialist Camilo Viveiros gave a report on the University-wide project to achieve parity for classified staff and related organizing. A discussion took place concerning award recipients for next year’s Banquet.

Most riveting were the reports from the two graduated students. Sade Smith won the system-wide prize for her entry in the Undergraduate Journal on Work, Labor and Social Movements, and she related the remarkable personal journey she is making as an African American woman, in part as a result of her experience at UMassD. Winona Glascock recounted her undertaking of a role in this year’s Fall River History Tour. Both women received an enthusiastic response from an appreciative audience of Board members.

Website Revamped
Thanks to the work of UMassD IT specialists, we have a revamped website. The site is now more accessible to mobile users, and our Facebook and YouTube account updates will be reflected there, as well. The site has new features, and contains our new brochure describing for union members the many online opportunities for study at UMassD.
Labor Education Center Director with University’s Construction Compliance Committee
Director Wilson serves as an advisor to the University’s Construction Compliance Committee and has been a participant in the Committee’s meetings.

Online Education Brochure
At the urging of President Meehan the LEC has developed a brochure for distribution to union members explaining the value of online courses at the University.

Labor Day Interview on WBSM
LEC Director Wilson was interviewed by WBSM broadcaster Jim Phillips in conjunction with Labor Day 2019. The interview can be heard on the LEC’s website.

Community Engagement
The Center aims to bridge the campus and the community and endeavors to meet this need through the following activities.

Women’s Institute for Leadership Development
LEC Director Wilson is an important participant in the activities of WILD, serving on the Board and playing a leading role in that important organization. This year Ms. Wilson helped organize WILD in the Winter, a conference for rank and file immigrant women concerned with abuse and the union response, and she also helped with the creation of a Leadership Celebration for Womens’ History Month. For WILD in the Winter, Director Wilson brought a student from UMassD and 3 immigrant women from the New Bedford area to the event. Both of these events were statewide and involved major organizations in the Commonwealth. Director Wilson also attended the WILD Annual Retreat. For the annual WILD three-day training in June, the Center was able to recruit four immigrant women to attend.

Low Wage Immigrant Women – Train the Trainer
The LEC has received a grant from and partnered with the Women’s Fund, and also joined with the Community Economic Development Center, to provide a “train the trainer” program for immigrant women in workers’ rights. A strong current of exploitation surges through the female immigrant workforce, and the LEC is playing an increasingly important role in helping these workers protect themselves. The training program will continue through the next fiscal year.

AHA! LEC and Two Other Groups Take Bow
The LEC has entered into a partnership with the Greater SE Massachusetts Labor Council and Teamsters Local 59 to form WAC, the Workers’ Art Center. WAC participates in AHA!, New Bedford’s arts and culture night, occurring on the second Thursday of each month. Bringing workers’ culture to the arts scene has been discussed many times over the years, and the unique role of the LEC enhances the embedded nature of the University in the community. For its inaugural venture on May 9th WAC offered an on-site lecture at the Frederick Douglas mural on South 6th Street; offered a display of worker photography; and held a jam session with union member musicians singing worker and labor songs. On June 13th The WAC tabled at AHA! on the theme of Pride at Work. WAC partnered with several national unions for awareness of LEBTQ rights in the workplace.
Summer Cookout with SEIU 1199
The traditional summer cookout for labor and community members was changed in order to partner with SEIU Local 1199. During a heavy rainstorm the cookout was held at Hazelwood Park in New Bedford’s South End in August. Both union members and community members attended in weather reduced numbers, and several employers, primarily associated with SEIU 1199, set up tables to recruit new employees. The Greater Southeastern Massachusetts Labor Council was also a co-sponsor.

Building Pathways South Pre-Apprenticeship Program.
Director Wilson continues to assist the Southeastern Massachusetts Building Trades and the Brockton and Vicinity Building Trades and their respective affiliates in promoting the Building Pathways South program. Sitting on the Advisory Committee, Ms. Wilson has seen the first two graduating classes emerge with strong credentials for a number of apprenticeship programs in the trades. As this is written, a new class is beginning, with the significant involvement of the Committee in the process. The program has a focus on inclusion of women and minorities in the union construction industry and is funded by the Massachusetts Department of Transportation. For those inclined to question the building trades’ commitment to diversity this program is a legitimate response to confirm support of diversity and inclusion.

The Labor Extension Program
This program is led by Camilo Viveiros and provides training and technical assistance for union and community members.

Strategic Planning Assistance to St. Luke’s Hospital Nurses
The Director and Labor Education Specialist helped lead the newly established unit of nurses at St. Luke’s Hospital in a strategic planning process. Over 700 nurses voted in December, 2018 to authorize the Massachusetts Nurses Association to represent them in collective bargaining. For new union members and their leaders, it is critical to be comfortable with the collective bargaining and labor relations process, and to consider carefully what the members’ needs and priorities are as they establish their organization. The implications of a strategic plan can be enormous for the members, the community, and even the employer. The LEC staff has significant experience in developing the process of thinking through organizational issues, goals and objectives, and the way to achieve them for union members.

Steward as Organizer Training
A stewards training was conducted in two sessions in June 2019, offered to area unions. Members of various organizations turned out for the sessions which were intended to extend the traditional stewards’ knowledge base to internal organizing. Participants engaged in lively discussion and made key contributions with their own experience.

Labor Education Coordinator Facilitates Massachusetts AFL-CIO Discussion
Labor Education Specialist Camilo Viveiros was asked to be a facilitator of floor discussions at the annual Gompers-Murray-Meany Leadership Conference conducted by the Massachusetts AFL-CIO. Viveiros helped the plenary discussion for several workshops and played a significant role as labor leaders from around the state and region convened in May.
Labor Extension Retreat
Labor Extension workers from the four campuses gathered on August 20 and 21 for a planning retreat. Much of the work performed at the local level is similar, depending on the union and community mix, and sharing of our experience in an informal setting is essential. Collaboration is important in our work, with each campus having special approaches and concentrations that benefit the others.

Visibility Activities
United Association of Labor Educators Annual Conference
The LEC staff attended the annual UALE conference in Philadelphia in April. The conference brings together labor education staff from centers around the country. Labor Education Specialist Camilo Viveiros cochaired a workshop on Immigration and Globalization. His role reflects the increasing credibility of the Labor Education Center in the field nationally.

Appearance at Women’s Fund of Southeastern Massachusetts Board of Directors
LEC Director Wilson gave a presentation to the Board of Directors of the Women’s Fund of Southeastern Massachusetts in November. Present were major donors of the Fund, as well. The subject of the presentation was the “Train the Trainer” project currently in progress with the LEC and the Fund and the increasingly close collaboration between the two groups.

Management - Advisory Mechanisms
The LEC holds weekly staff meetings, monthly Steering Committee meetings, and twice-yearly Advisory Committee meetings. Staff and committee members are as follows:

Staff
Kim Wilson, Director
Lisa Jochim, Director of the Workers’ Education Program
Camilo Viveiros, Labor Extension Specialist
Jim Snow, Consultant for Special Projects (externally funded)
Ida Almeida, five hour a week administrative support (externally funded)

WEP support staff and teachers, grant funded
Paula Barry
Donald France
Carrie Irujo
Carla Melo
Roberta Miller
Joanne Pinsonneault
Susan Potter-Alves
Matthew Ryckebusch
Donna Teixera
John of the Trinity
Georgette Biscari
Ismar Gonzales
Mary Jane Easton
Susan Skawinski
Hannah Fountain
Ana Graca

Steering Committee
Dr. Ricardo Rosa, Department of Educational Leadership, UMass Dartmouth
Dr. Eric Larson, Department of Crime and Justice Studies, UMass Dartmouth
Dr. Lisa Maya Knauer, Department of Sociology, UMass Dartmouth
Lisa Lemieux, President, Greater SE Mass Labor Council
Cynthia Rodrigues, Past President, Greater SE Mass Labor Council
Eric Carvalho, President, ATU 174
Tim Melia, President, UFCW 328
Brian Pastori, Deputy Director, Community Economic Development Center
Peter Knowlton, General President, United Electrical Workers union
Jerry Fishbein, Vice President, SEIU 1199, United Healthcare Workers
Jim Snow, Retired Regional Director, AFL-CIO Northeast Region
Jim Pimental, Organizer, Bricklayers and Allied Craftsmen Local 3

Advisory Board
Mardee Xifaras, Attorney
Steven Tolman, President, Mass. AFL-CIO
Dr. Colleen Avedikian, Bristol Community College
George F. Belanger, Secretary-Treasurer, Local 59 IBT
Antonio Cabral, State Representative
Rebecca Cusick, President, Fall River Educators Association
Lily Huang, Co-Director, Massachusetts Jobs with Justice
Wilfred Desnoyer, Jr., President, UAW Mass CAP Council
Richard Drolet, Leader, NALC Whaling City Branch 18
Tolle Graham, Labor Educator, MassCOSH
David Rolando Oliva, Director, Fundacion Romero
Jim Pinkham, President, Bristol Plymouth Labor Council
Deborah Fastino, Executive Director, Coalition for Social Justice
Frank J. Runey, Secretary Treasurer, UFCW 791
Ron Weisberger, Strategic Action Coordinator, BCC, MCCC
Corinn Williams, Community Economic Development Center

List of all physical space occupied and used by the Labor Education Center:
The primary office is located at 257 Union St., New Bedford, MA 02740. The LEC shares a
lobby area and occupies two small offices and a library. The Workers Education Center is
located in the Star Store in downtown New Bedford at 715 Purchase St. WEP occupies an office
suite and six classrooms.
Projections for FY20

The Labor Education Center will continue to increase our engagement with students. We will deepen links with the university entities and faculty. The Director will continue as a member of the Urban Studies board and as a member of Black History Four Seasons, to enable greater participation and contributions from the Center.

We will continue to provide opportunities for students through credit bearing internships as well as service learning and volunteer opportunities. We will once again seek out students to submit research their work to the UMass Labor Program’s annual competition for publication in a statewide journal, the *Undergraduate Journal of Work, Labor and Social Movements*. This journal is edited by the four campus labor programs.

The Center will continue to build the WEP program and to further develop the labor advisory committee for WEP, which organizes promotional events for elected leaders and enriches opportunities for WEP students.

We will hold our annual fundraising banquet on October 17, a legislative breakfast in the spring, and a series of open enrollment courses in January 2020. We anticipate presenting a conference on labor and economic development in the spring of 2020, depending on staff resources.