



PROGRAM

9am Registration & Breakfast

Opening Remarks

- Dr. Moise St Louis, PhD., Asst. Dean/Director, Frederick Douglass Unity House/Conference Chair

Welcome

David Gomes, Chief Diversity Officer/ Title IX Coordinator/
 Office of Diversity, Equity & Inclusion/Conference Organizing
 Committee

Conference Details

- Camilo Viveiros, Senior Labor Educator, Acting Director The Labor Education Center/Conference Organizing
Committee

10am Introduction of Keynote

- Dr. Bruce Rose, EdD., Vice-President NAACP/Conference
Organizing Committee

Keynote Bill Fletcher, Author, Scholar, Activist

"Is It 'Race' Or 'Class'? How U.S. History Has confounded Organized Labor."

Bill Fletcher Jr. is an author, scholar, and national expert on Workers' Rights and Racial Justice. Bill Fletcher Jr has been an activist since his teen years. He has worked for several labor unions in addition to serving as a senior staff person in the national AFL-CIO. Fletcher is the former president of Trans Africa Forum; and Senior Scholar with the Institute for Policy Studies. Fletcher is the co-author (with Peter Agard) of "The Indispensable Ally: Black Workers and the Formation of the Congress of Industrial Organizations, 1934-1941"; the co-author (with Dr. Fernando Gapasin) of "Solidarity Divided: The crisis in organized labor and a new path toward social justice"; and the author of "'They're Bankrupting Us' - And Twenty other myths about unions", "Reimagining Labor Unions: Busting Myths, Building Movements", and "Race to Labor: Can Organized Labor Be an Agent of Social and Economic Justice?". He is also a writer of fiction including "The Man Who Fell from the Sky" and "The Man Who Changed Colors", set in the Southeastern MA and Cape Cod, portraying local working-class characters and Cape Verdean protagonists seeking justice in our region and beyond.

11am - 12:15pm Health Disparities as Barriers to Racial and Economic Justice

 Moderated by Uloma Onubogu, PhD, MSN, MSEd, AGPCNP-BC, FNP-BC, CNE, Assistant Dean, Online Learning College of Nursing and Health Sciences

Location: Marketplace

The Impact of Policies on Racial Health Disparities: In Search of an Inclusive Approach at the Intersection of Workers' Rights and Health. Dr. Dean Robinson Polsci.umass.edu/people/dean-e-robinson

Facing Health Disparities Head on: The Path and Challenges to Health Equity. Dr. Kyaien O. Conner

Director, Center on Race and Social Problems crsp.pitt.edu/. Professor and Donald M. Henderson Endowed Chair. Associate Dean for Justice, Equity, Diversity and Inclusion (JEDI) University of Pittsburgh School of Social Work.

The Impact of Unions on Black Women's Health: More Than Policies; Everyday Health and Rights protection of women of Color at the workplace. Jamie Daniels, PhD,

LICSW, MSW she/her/hers - Owner/Director, Polestar Therapy | Adjunct Faculty, Smith College SSW

The Intersection between Safety and Policies: Everyday Practices as a vehicle for workers' Health and Economic Justice. Brenda Quintana,

Labor-Community Training Coordinator and Organizer at the Massachusetts Coalition for Occupational Safety.

12:05 - 12:25pm Boxed Lunch Provided

12:30 – 1:45pm Legal Barriers to Racial and Economic Justice Then and Now

- Moderated by David Gomes, Chief Diversity Officer/Conference Organizing Committee

Location: Marketplace

Rebecca Yee, General Counsel, for MTA,

massteacher.org/mta-membership/legal-resources/whos-who-in-the-mta-division-of-legal-services

Monica Teixeira De Sousa:

- law.rwu.edu/faculty/monica-teixeira-de-sousa
- law.rwu.edu/news/news-archive/very-clear-mission

Race and the Foundation of American Law

law.rwu.edu/sites/law/files/downloads/diversity/Race_Model_Syllabus_.pdf

David Gomes, Chief Diversity Officer / Title IX Coordinator - Office of Diversity, Equity & Inclusion

umassd.edu/directory/dgomes3

2 - 3:15pm Panel 1

The Intersection of Gender and Race in the Struggle for Economic Justice.

- Moderated by Dr. Juli Parker, PhD.

Location: Marketplace

Jill E. Ashton, Regional Administrator, New England - Region 1, Women's Bureau, US Department of Labor. Jill Ashton serves as the Northeast Regional Administrator for the US Department of Labor Women's Bureau where she champions policies and standards that safeguard the interests of working women, and advocates for the equality and economic security of women and their families. Former executive director of the Massachusetts Commission on the Status of Women.

Kimmie Johnson, is the first female President of IATSE Local 481, which represents crew in the motion picture industry in New England. For over fifteen years, she has worked in the film industry in an array of departments. Her credits include being a Construction Buyer and Art Department Coordinator for Academy Award Winning films such as CODA, Knives Out, and Sound of Metal!

Lisa Lemieux a graduate of Labor Studies of UMass Boston, is President of the Greater Southeastern Massachusetts Labor Council and Organizer with the Massachusetts Teachers Association, Vice President with Massachusetts AFL-CIO, Massachusetts Democratic Party elected Senatorial Women and a state committee member and co-chair of the New Bedford Democratic City Committee.

2pm - 3:15pm Panel 2 Repression and Worker Resistance

- Moderated by Dr. Glaucia V Silva, PhD Location: Frederick Douglass Unity House

Elce Redmond will reflect on his work mentoring young workers and non-union workers. Sharing examples of Black lead labor organizing that have made a difference and how labor and racial justice work can combine our capacities to better organize the unorganized.

Jamie Edwards (they/them) will share how they turned pro-union sentiment into unionization as well as the obstacles and opportunities for labor organizing.

Tripp Hopkins will discuss the interconnections between how worker and BIPOC organizing can confront the criminalization of Black people and how solutions should build power and participation of those impacted by the War on Drugs and mass incarceration.

Collique Williams, Senior Organizer, Community Labor United, is a long-time Boston-area community organizer, who comes to CLU from the youth organizing sector.

3:30 - 4:45pm

Resistance and Intersectional tension – Undermining and Strengthening Advocacy and economic and Racial Justice though Coalition-building.

- Moderated by Dr. Lisa Knauer Location: The Frederick Douglass Unity House

Deb Fastino, Executive Director Coalition for Social Justice Education Fund/ Coordinator of Raise Up Massachusetts Coalition. She has 23 years of experience in community organizing, campaign directing, and coalition building.

Siggy Meilus, National Field Organizer for Poor People's Campaign.

Bert Barao, President of the New England Joint Board, located in Boston, MA, / Treasurer of the Greater Boston A Philip Randolph Institute Chapter, and Secretary of the NAACP New Bedford Branch.

Rev. Dr. M. Campbell, Senior Pastor at Alpha and Omega Church in Fall River MA. Member of the Coordinating Committee of the Massachusetts Poor People's Campaign. She organizes tenants at Bay Village Apartments in Fall River and works in the prisons with her congregation.

Collique Williams, Senior Organizer, Community Labor United, is a long-time Boston-area community organizer, who comes to CLU from the youth organizing sector.

Adrián Ventura, Executive Director of the Centro Comunitario de Trabajadores (Workers' Community Center), a workers' center founded and governed entirely by immigrant workers.

6 - 6:30pm

BOOK SIGNING - Join Bill Fletcher Jr. for his most recent mystery novel set on Cape Cod and Southeastern MA. The Man Who Changed Colors delves into the abusive working conditions in the region's shipyards and the complicated relationships between Cape Verdean Americans, African Americans, Portuguese fascist gangs, and union organizers.

6:30-9:00pm

n Arnold M. Dubin Labor Education Center Annual Awards Ceremony

Location: The Marketplace, UMass Dartmouth



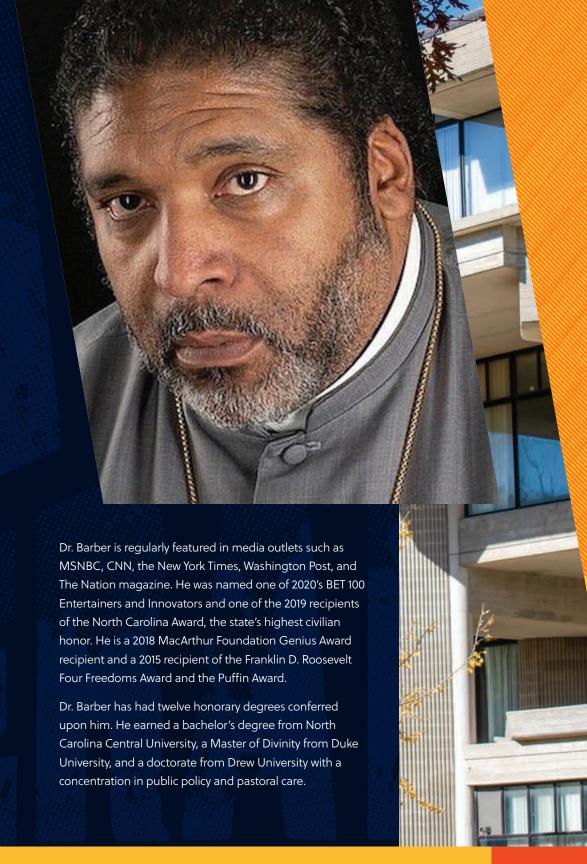
The Rev. Dr. William Joseph Barber II

Rev. Dr. William J. Barber II is President and Senior
Lecturer of Repairers of the Breach, Co-Chair of the Poor
People's Campaign: A National Call For Moral Revival,
Bishop with The Fellowship of Affirming Ministries,
Executive Board Member of the Christian Church Disciples
of Christ, and Professor in the Practice of Public Theology
and Public Policy and Founding Director of the Center for
Public Theology and Public Policy at Yale Divinity School.

He is the author of four books: We Are Called To Be A Movement; Revive Us Again: Vision and Action in Moral Organizing; The Third Reconstruction: Moral Mondays, Fusion Politics, and the Rise of a New Justice Movement; and Forward Together: A Moral Message for the Nation.

Dr. Barber served as senior pastor of Greenleaf Christian Church, Disciples of Christ for thirty years and as president of the North Carolina NAACP from 2006-2017 and on the National NAACP Board of Directors from 2008-2020. He is the architect of the Forward Together Moral Movement that gained national acclaim in 2013 with its Moral Monday protests at the North Carolina General Assembly. In 2015, he established Repairers of the Breach to train communities in moral movement building through the Moral Political Organizing Leadership Institute and Summit Trainings (MPOLIS). In 2018, he co-anchored the relaunch of the Poor People's Campaign: A National Call for Moral Revival—reviving the 1968 Poor People's Campaign organized by SCLS, under the leadership of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., worker's rights movement, women's rights movement, religious leaders, and people of all races to fight poverty in the U.S.

A highly sought-after speaker, Dr. Barber has given keynote addresses at hundreds of national and state conferences, including the 2016 Democratic National Convention, the homily at the 59th Inaugural Prayer Service for President Joe Biden and Vice President Kamala Harris, the Vatican at Pope Francis's encyclical "Laudato Si': On Care for Our Common Home" and the Pontifical Academy of Social Sciences. In June 2018, he addressed the 5th Uni Global Union World Congress to more than 25 countries.



Speakers



Jill Ashton

Regional Administrator, New England - Region 1, Women's Bureau, US Department of Labor. Jill Ashton serves as the Northeast Regional Administrator for the US Department of Labor Women's Bureau where she champions policies and standards that safeguard the interests of working women, and advocates for the equality and economic security of women and their families. She has served as the executive director of the Massachusetts Commission on the Status of Women, and led the coalition of organizations that success-

fully stewarded the passage of the Equal Pay Act, a piece of ground-breaking economic justice legislation that, among other provisions, prevents hiring managers from inquiring about salary history.

Jill has served on several nonprofit boards throughout her career. These include leadership roles as the president of the National Association of Commissions on Women, chair of the Advisory Board for the Center for Women in Politics and Public Policy, and chair of the Massachusetts Chapter of the National Organization for Women. She currently serves her town as a member of the Library Board of Trustees.

Jill is a graduate from the Program for Women in Politics and Public Policy at University of Massachusetts Boston, where she received recognition for academic excellence.



Bert Barao

Bert Barao began serving as President of the New England Joint Board, located in Boston, MA, in November 2003 and has been a member for the past 47 years. He also serves as Treasurer of the Greater Boston A Philip Randolph Institute Chapter since June 2015 and Secretary of the NAACP New Bedford Branch for the past 6 years. He was also a Civil Rights Designee of UNITE HERE's Civil Rights Dept.



Rev. Dr. M. Campbell,

Rev. Dr. M. Campbell, is on the Coordinating Committee of MA Poor People's Campaign. She organizes tenants at Bay Village Apartments in Fall River and works in the prisons with her congregation.



Dr. Kyaien Conner

Ph.D., LSW, MPH Professor and Donald M. Henderson Endowed Chair, Director of the Center on Race and Social Problems (CRSP) and Associate Dean for Diversity, Equity and Inclusion. Dr. Conner received her BS in Psychology, MSW, MPH with a specialization in Minority Health and Health Disparities, and a PhD in Social Work at the University of Pittsburgh.

Dr. Conner's research investigates the factors that influence disparities in health and mental health service utilization and treatment outcomes for racial and ethnic minorities. She is currently the PI of a research award (PCORI) to evaluate the impact of a transitions in care intervention to reduce health disparities among African American and Latino/Hispanic patients being discharged from the hospital with chronic illness and co-occurring mental illness. She is a co-investigator on a multi-site RO1 (NIMH) to evaluate the efficacy of training volunteers in low-income communities to deliver a brief intervention for depression to their acutely depressed peers in an effort to build community capacity. Dr. Conner is the DEI lead for the NIH funded Advanced Research Institute for Geriatric Psychiatry. Dr. Conner also is focused on the development of policy and legislation which supports health equity.

Dr. Conner wrote a bill that signed into law on 6/17/2021 to restructure the Florida State Office of Minority Health and Health Equity (Senate Bill 404 sponsored by State Senator Darryl Rouson Senate Bill 404 (2021) - The Florida Senate (flsenate.gov))

Dr. Conner has received several awards for her work including the Distinguished Alumni Award (University of Pittsburgh, 2023), Chancellors Award for Excellence in Civic and Community Engagement, (University of South Florida, 2022), and Black Faculty Member of the year (University of South Florida, 2021).



Jamie Daniels,

Jamie Daniels, PhD, LICSW, MSW, Owner/Director, Polestar Therapy, Adjunct Faculty, Smith College SSW. Dr. Daniels is a social worker, psychotherapist, an educator, a researcher and scholar, an activist, and a mother of three. Her research focuses on the impact of unions on the health of women of color.



Jamie Edwards

Jamie Edwards (they/them) is the National President of Trader Joes United and the local president of the Hadley, MA Local -1 the first unionized shop in Trader Joes history. Their initial campaign in Hadley was the first in a string of victories in Minneapolis, MN; Louisville, KY and Oakland, CA.



Monica Teixeira de Sousa

Monica Teixeira de Sousa, a graduate of Georgetown University Law Center and Brown University, is a Professor of Law at Roger Williams University School of Law where she teaches Property, Family Law, and Race & the Foundations of American Law. Prior to joining the RWU Law faculty in 2022, Monica was a tenured professor at New England Law Boston where she created and served as the director of the First-Generation Students

Program. Before her academic career, Professor Teixeira de Sousa was a staff attorney at Rhode Island Legal Services as a Skadden Fellow where she created a school-based legal clinic at her former elementary school in Pawtucket, Rhode Island. She represented parents and students in school discipline and special education cases, as well as public benefits and eviction defense matters.

Professor Teixeira de Sousa has written and presented on issues of equity and education law and policy. She has worked in the Public Benefits Unit at Rhode Island Legal Services and has engaged in pro-bono work in the areas of Housing, evictions, parental rights, and educational access. She also serves on the board of directors of both the Cape Verdean American Lawyers Association and the nonprofit Justice at Work.

Professor Teixeira de Sousa earned her JD from Georgetown University Law Center in 2002 and her BA from Brown University in 1998. Some of her publications include: Class Houses: Fragility and Disunity in the Ranks of Academe or Democratizing the Future of Legal Education According to the Vision of Ivan Illich, 15 Hastings Race and Poverty Law Journal 1 (2018).



Deb Fastino

Deb Fastino (she/her) is Executive Director of the Coalition for Social Justice Education Fund. She has 23 years of experience in community organizing, campaign directing, and coalition building. She rose through the ranks, starting as a volunteer to Executive Director in 2012. Deb played a leading role in numerous successful statewide campaigns including the ACT Coalition's healthcare victory in 2006, the founding and conceptualization of Raise-Up Massachu-

setts that led to ballot victories on Earned Sick Time in 2014 and legislative victories to increase the minimum wage in 2014 and 2018. She led the Paid Family & Medical Leave victory for Raise Up Massachusetts in 2018 and in 2022. She played a key role in the millionaire's tax ballot victory. She is currently leading the Coalition for Social Justice Education Fund and the Common Start Coalition that focuses on affordable, accessible, high quality early education and childcare.



Bill Fletcher Jr.

Bill Fletcher Jr. is an author, scholar, and national expert on Workers' Rights and Racial Justice. He has worked for several labor unions in addition to serving as a senior staff person in the national AFL-CIO. Fletcher is the former president of TransAfrica Forum, and Senior Scholar with the Institute for Policy Studies. Fletcher is the co-author (with Peter Agard) of "The Indispensable Ally: Black Workers and the Formation of the Congress of Industrial

Organizations, 1934-1941"; co-author (with Dr. Fernando Gapasin) of "Solidarity Divided: The crisis in organized labor and a new path toward social justice"; and the author of "'They're Bankrupting Us' – And Twenty other myths about unions", "Reimagining Labor Unions: Busting Myths, Building Movements", and "Race to Labor: Can Organized Labor Be an Agent of Social and Economic Justice?". He is also a writer of fiction including "The Man Who Fell from the Sky" and "The Man Who Changed Colors".



Tripp Hopkins

Tripp Hopkins is a Black queer community organizer who advocates for BIPOC and LGBTQ+ rights. Tripp is a member of PVDFlowers worker co-op, where they advocate for restorative justice and fight against the ramifications of the War on Drugs. Tripp is also a volunteer at Haus of Codec, a queer youth transitional shelter. They advocate with a focus on those who are underrepresented, with an emphasize on Blackness and Queerness.



Kimmie Johnson

Kimmie Johnson, is the first female President of IATSE Local 481, which represents crew in the motion picture industry in New England. For over fifteen years, she has worked in the film industry in an array of departments. Her credits include being a Construction Buyer and Art Department Coordinator for Academy Award Winning films such as CODA, Knives Out, and Sound of Metal!



Lisa Lemieux

Lisa Lemieux, a graduate of Labor Studies of UMass Boston, is President of the Greater Southeastern Massachusetts Labor Council and Organizer with the Massachusetts Teachers Association, Vice President with Massachusetts AFL-CIO, Massachusetts Democratic Party elected Senatorial Women and a state committee member and co-chair of the New Bedford Democratic City Committee.

Lisa started her first union job at AT&T in Fairhaven in 1997, became a member of CWA Local 1051 and was elected a steward then a District Vice President all while starting her education in Labor Studies at UMASS Dartmouth and Cornell University. Lisa was elected the first Latina President of the GSMLC in 2017 and has been a delegate for over 18 years and as Parent of the Year from PACE - Parents Alliance for Catholic Education, and Labor Representative and executive Board member for Mass Hire Greater New Bedford Workforce Board.

Lisa was formerly an Organizer with 1199SEIU and since 2005 has represented healthcare workers in hospitals, nursing home workers and Personal Care Attendants.



Sigute Meilus

Sigute Meilus, she/her, National Co-Director of Social Justice Organizing at Repairers of the Breach. Serves as the Co-Director of Organizing for the Poor People's Campaign: A National Call for Moral Revival. She is a longtime community and worker organizer with roots in economic justice struggles for public transportation, living wages, restaurant workers' rights, and affordable housing.



Brenda Quintana

Brenda Quintana, (they/them) is the Labor-Community Training Coordinator and Organizer at (Massachusetts Coalition for Occupational Safety and Health. They support worker centers, community groups, and unions by providing worker education and training on occupational safety and health. Brenda also plays a crucial role in coordinating the Coalition for Cannabis Worker Safety and the Massachusetts Worker Center Network. These initiatives bring together workers, advocates, labor unions,

and community leaders to address concerns related to cannabis workers and low-wage immigrant workers in the industry and statewide. Brenda is currently completing their master's degree in Labor Studies at the University of Massachusetts Amherst. They have dedicated over five years to organizing with immigrant worker centers and longstanding labor and community leaders who focus on intersectional anti-oppression community work, and the participation of working-class people and people of color.



Elce Redmond

Elce Redmond is a long-time labor organizer, youth mentor with EWOC (Emergency Worker Organizing Committee). Elce is a union campaign and strategic community organizer with 35 years of experience across a variety of industries. He has helped unions and grassroot groups with leadership development, contract negotiations, grievance monitoring, fostering community alliances, government lobbying, and fiduciary oversight. Elce has worked with unions and

community organizations including roles as the Deputy Trustee with the Bakery, Confectionery, Tobacco Workers And Grain Millers International Union, Lead Policy and Community Organizer with Warehouse Workers for Justice, and community groups and coalitions Chicago, IL, including: the Empowerment Zone, the Coalition to Protect Public Housing, Lead Organizer at the Center for Labor and Community Research, Westside Health Authority, as Lead Organizer/Executive Director with the Northwest Austin Council, Organizer with the Illinois ACORN.



Dr. Dean Robinson

Dr. Dean Robinson is an Associate Professor of Political Science at the University of Massachusetts, at Amherst. He holds a Ph.D. from Yale University in political science and did a postdoctorall training in social epidemiology at the Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health. Robinson's research and scholarship focus on Black politics and social thought, and the political and policy

dimensions of racial and class inequalities in health in the United States.

His current projects include a second edition of his book Black Nationalism in US Politics and Thought (Cambridge), an empirical study on the antipoverty policy on black and white birth outcomes, and a co-authored book project (with Javier Rodriguez) on politics, economics, and Black-white trends in U.S. mortality. He is co-PI on "MOCHA" Moving Forward: A Community-Based Participatory Research Investigation of Chronic Disease Prevention in Older, Low-income African-American Men; funded by the National Institute of Minority Health Disparities and "Simulation and Decision-Analysis Algorithms for Integrated Modeling of Diseases: A healthy lives for all approach" funded by the NSF.



Collique Williams

Collique Williams, Senior Organizer, Community Labor United, is a long-time Boston-area community organizer, who comes to CLU from the youth organizing sector. Collique began his change-work as a youth organizer at the Boston-area Youth Organizing Project in 2001 and most recently at The City School, where he cut his teeth building a strong base of young folks shaping their communities.

It was there that he first began working on transportation with the successful Youth Pass campaign, making the connection between accessible transportation for youth and a broader fight for more equitable communities for working-class families.



Adrián Ventura

Adrián Ventura, Executive Director of the Centro Comunitario de Trabajadores (Workers' Community Center), a workers' center founded and governed entirely by immigrant workers. Adrián is an indigenous Maya K'iche' leader from Guatemala who has been advocating for and organizing immigrant and low-wage workers in southern New England for more than 15 years.



Rebecca Yee

General Counsel, joined the MTA in 2020 after two decades of exclusively practicing labor and employment law, primarily at large and prominent labor unions. Prior to joining the MTA, Rebecca served as general counsel for SEIU Local 721, the largest public-sector employee union in Southern California. Rebecca also practiced at the Screen Actors Guild as both senior counsel and national director of affirmative action and diversity, specializing in nondiscrimi-

nation law and equal employment rights in the entertainment industry.

As a former legal aid attorney with Neighborhood Legal Services of Los Angeles County, Rebecca developed substantial experience representing low-wage and immigrant workers in wage and hour litigation and nonprofit governance. Rebecca also worked at the union labor law firm Gilbert & Sackman in Los Angeles. A proud native of Chinatown on the South Side of Chicago, where she was raised, Rebecca is a graduate of the UCLA School of Law and the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign.

Conference Organizing Committee Members

David Gomes, Chief Diversity Officer/Title IX Coordinator, Office of Diversity, Equity & Inclusion / Conference Organizing Committee

Dr. Lisa Knauer, Associate Professor / Chairperson Sociology/Anthropology/ Conference Organizing Committee

Dr. Devon Lynch, Associate Professor of Economics and Public Policy / Director, Black Studies/Conference Organizing Committee

Donna Moore, Administrative Assistant/Conference Organizing Committee

Dr. Juli Parker, Ph.D., Assistant Dean of Students/Interim Victim Advocate/ Director, Center for Women, Gender, & Sexuality/Conference Organizing Committee

Bruce A. Rose, Ed.D, Vice President and serves on the Executive Committee/retired Assistant Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs/ Conference Organizing Committee

Dr. Moise St Louis, PhD., Assistant Dean/Director, Frederick Douglass Unity House/Conference Organizing Committee Chair

Camilo Viveiros, Senior Labor Educator, Acting Director -The Labor Education Center /Conference Organizing Committee

The Waging Liberation: the Dynamics of Race and Labor Conference is the combined efforts of the Frederick Douglass Unity House, The Labor Ed Center, the Center for Women, Gender and Sexuality, Black Studies, The Office of Diversity Equity, and Inclusion, and the Department of Sociology and Anthropology, and the New Bedford Chapter of the NAACP. The Conference is being supported by the UMass Dartmouth Crime and Justice, History, English Departments and the College of Visual and Performing Arts.



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