

## **Candidate Statement for Mobilization Coordinator**

My name is Damola Oduwale, a graduate student in Resource Economics. Thanks to your support, I have been privilege to serve as your Mobilization Coordinator, Chair of the Finance Committee, and member of the Steering Committee for the past 3 months. I therefore humbly request your support and vote for a full term as your mobilization coordinator. I am qualified, and possess the energy to serve as your mobilization coordinator. I possess a deep understanding of the most pressing and challenging issues that our members, especially members with families face today. As an international student, loving husband, and a devoted father, I can relate with your struggles and advocate on behalf of everyone to ensure a better quality of life for all graduate student workers, the backbone of our university. As we move forward, our union needs committed, passionate, and fearless servant leaders to lead GEO. I truly believe that I am that devoted and determined leader who will ensure that our rights continue to be protected and respected by UMass.

I remain committed to all my promises and vision as communicated to you in the last election. I have been working hard to transition and integrate myself into the working culture and dynamics of GEO so that I can deliver on all the promises made to you. I ask for a full term as your mobilization coordinator to build a strong GEO to take us into the next 25 years. I must confess that the experiences has been challenging but very rewarding with the opportunity to serve, and this also sounds like the experiences of some of our members, so

As mobilization coordinator, I will work with membership and staff to ensure the following:

- **A Unified GEO Membership**
- **Strengthen our relationship with local UAW 2322**
- **Increased access to funds for GEO events and activism**
- **Increase active membership base by encouraging more agency fee payers to become full members.**
- **Continued advocacy for affordable housing for GEO members.**
- **Work to make the UMass Campus community more family friendly and accessible for our members.**
- **Create more spaces for different views and opinions within GEO.**

I envision a new approach to student's labor activism, I envision a responsive and pro-active union, one that is admired and respected. I am a believer that for effective advocacy "strength in numbers" is the best approach. I will reach-out to all strata of student population to solicit more participation and involvements in GEO activities. If re-elected as your Mobilization Coordinator, I promise to lift our great Union to new heights. I humbly request for your vote for the position of the GEO Mobilization Coordinator so that together we can make our Union great.

In Solidarity,

Damola Oduwale

**I am your friend and ever ready to serve your interest.**