

Dear GEO Members

I am honored to accept the nomination for the position of Mobilization Coordinator for the 2016-2017 academic year. I believe that my background in community organizing, activism, and my deep commitment to social justice unionism will show that I am the best candidate for this position.

As some of you might be aware, I am new to UMASS Amherst. However within my first year I have done as much as I can to become deeply involved in our union. I currently sit on the UAW 2322 Joint Council, I am a departmental steward, as well as a consistent and active volunteer within our union shop.

Prior to coming to this academic institution I was a community organizer and project coordinator for the not-for-profit organization the New York Public Interest Research Group (NYPIRG) for roughly five years. During this time it was my job to initiate community based coalitions, as well as mobilizing activists and community members to participate in environmental and political campaigns as well as events on college campuses and in the community. This opportunity to work in community organizing has given me invaluable coordinating skills that I can apply to better represent our union on campus.

In addition, I am a masters student at the UMASS Labor Center. The Labor department's main goal is the education, advocacy and proliferation of labor unions. I believe this formal education is important to better understand successful strategy in bargaining, organizing, and better represent our membership.

Next year we go back to the bargaining table and a specific type of vision straight from the beginning is important to guarantee our success. If we want unfaltering goals to expand priorities such as wage and benefits we will need someone who is not afraid, not just go outside their comfort zone and mobilize membership, but organize members to come to meetings and create networks to give us leverage and help us win a strong contract. It is important for the incoming mobilization coordinator to understand this and take on this task not for themselves, but for the betterment of our membership and our community.

If elected, that is the future I want to create. GEO has a long tradition of community and social justice activism, something that I am passionate about and am willing to stand up and fight for. I want to apply my skills and expertise to work for our members and better represent our union. My goal is to spend at least ten of my twenty work hours organizing in the field; building connections with new members, and solidifying networks with old ones. I want help develop a long term strategy to create an overwhelmingly successful bargaining year. Being a coordinator, especially during a time of political (or in this case contract) pressure is not an easy task, I know that from experience, but I am willing to take on that role with responsibility and passion. However in order for us to start this bargaining year strong, I need your support today.

In solidarity,

Adam Garfield