**Family Issues Advocate/Organizer**

One of GEO's central missions is providing support for student parents and other graduate students with family-related needs. The Family Issues position is responsible for advocating on behalf of families to insure the University does not overlook the needs of student-parents. The Family Issues Advocate also organizes and coordinates activities with these students.

Preference will be given to GEO members who have been active in committees and campaigns, or have related issue experience. Non-members (including agency fee payers) are not eligible to apply. Applicants should be committed to the general principles of social justice and collective action.

Duties include, but are not limited to:

1. Maintaining a network list of students interested in family issues and updating these members through emails and mailings and planning and coordinating activities and programs for student-parents and families.

2. Coordinating with GSS with regard to family issues; this includes serving on the GSS committee that administers the Affordable Flexible Child Care Program for full-time and off-campus care.

3. Assisting graduate students with off-campus housing and childcare needs and representing the interests of graduate students living in family housing. The Family Issues Advocate will be responsible for acting as a liaison between GEO and the UMass Tenants Association.

4. Acting as a liaison between graduate students and community members concerned with family issues and networking with other on- and off-campus agencies.

5. Coordinating research and developing long-range plans for improved childcare and family housing in preparation for the next round of contract negotiations.

6. Chairing and convening the joint Family Issues Committee with the Administration.

7. Chairing and convening the GEO Family Issues Committee and recruiting members to serve on this committee.

8. Regularly attending Organizing Committee meetings and facilitating the integration of family issues with other GEO campaigns.

9. Contributing material to the website, the weekly GEO mass e-mail, and other media as appropriate.

Every organizing position also comes with the requirement that the organizer be willing to help out in campaigns and organizing projects that are not narrowly related to their specialty. Organizers are thus responsible for contributing as a team member in the union's organizing campaigns, including campaign start-up, committee building, assessments, developing literature and running meetings and workplace actions.

All employees are expected to devote a portion of their paid working hours to office management tasks (i.e., holding office hours, answering phones, taking messages, in-taking grievances, greeting members, etc.) and to attend meetings as required. Some night and weekend hours may be required. All GEO employees should also demonstrate a willingness to work towards the union’s collective goals and a commitment to being a part of an organization that is fighting for progressive change on the UMass campus and beyond.

This position is for 20 hours a week for the 2010-2011 academic year. GEO/UAW Local 2322 will provide training. People of color and women are encouraged to apply. International students are eligible and GEO will work to accommodate visa requirements. The salary is the same as the average campus-wide stipend and GEO will pay for university health benefits. In the past, all GEO staff employees who have needed tuition waivers have received them.

**The start date for this position is flexible and could potentially begin next semester, depending on applicant’s availability.**

**In order to apply, please submit: a resume and completed GEO Staff Application form (attached).**

Questions and applications should be emailed to [hiring@geouaw.org](mailto:hiring@geouaw.org) by 5pm on Friday, October 15, 2010 for priority consideration. Please indicate which position you are applying for in the subject line of the email.

**GEO STAFF POSITION APPLICATION FORM**

Name: Home/Cell Phone Number:

Email Address: Alternate Phone Number:

1. What kind of union activism, organizing, community or volunteer experience do you have? In what capacities have you been active with GEO?
2. Why are you interested in being hired for this position?
3. What skills do you possess that would be beneficial for this position?
4. Do you plan on having another assistantship or paid position that will require a significant commitment of your time? If so, please provide details of this position.

5. [OPTIONAL] Do you identify as a member of a protectedclass, which includes race, color, religious creed, national origin, sex, sexual orientation, ability, age and ancestry?