

I am an organizer, activist, educator, advocate and scholar whose dedication to resisting all forms of oppression and violence is central to my struggle for liberation and global vision of transformative social and economic justice. Currently a doctoral student in Social Justice Education at UMass, I hold an MS in Urban Affairs with a concentration in community organizing and a BA in Sociology and Latin American/Caribbean Studies from CUNY Hunter College.

Prior to coming to UMass in 2012, I worked in NY around issues of intimate partner violence, sexual violence, hate violence and criminalization, particularly as in intersecting LGBTQ, sex worker and immigrant communities. At UMass I have worked as both a research assistant and teaching associate. I train student facilitators. My research interests include dialogue, critical pedagogy, and the process by which critical consciousness becomes action.

Since October 2013 I have served as Grievance Coordinator of GEO-UAW2322. My first goal was to connect with every GEO steward to learn about working conditions in their respective departments. Whenever a member approaches me about an issue at work, whether it violates the contract or not, it is my priority to spend the time listening to, supporting, empowering and advocating for the member. Then I use the opportunity to educate and mobilize the member. My experiences in the anti-violence movement and with dialogue have given me strong skills and shape my approach to leadership and organizing. I have also been working on building coalitions, organizing events and representing GEO on committees. I attended UAW Leadership Institute, LaborNotes, and will facilitate a panel at the Left Forum with Graduate Unionists from different Universities.

I hope to serve as a GEO-UAW2322 leader for another year in a new role, as co-chair. I would work closely with Grievance Coordinator and work together to train stewards in grievance handling so that we can continue to build our union in an organizing model. I would prioritize leadership development among our ranks, focusing on membership mobilization and education, by strengthening our committees and prioritizing member-driven, democratic and participatory processes. I would emphasize the social justice focus of our by-laws by continuing to offer social justice trainings and caucus groups that challenge institutionalized oppression and work towards liberation for all.

I am honored and excited to be working with an amazing team on the Bargaining Committee as we gear up for a tough contract negotiation and create a bargaining session that is as democratic as possible. GEO is the most powerful and visible union on campus and I believe that it is our charge to play a vital role in not only defending our rights as workers but also shaping the future of the University in resistance to privatization and exploitation. Through member-driven organizing we can resist neoliberalism and oppression. UMass works because we do and we (like all workers) deserve a strong contract—that is respected—with social and economic justice. I will listen to you deeply and speak truth to power. I would be honored to have your vote for GEO-UAW2322 co-chair 2014-2015