

HOWARD ASHFORD for CO-CHAIR

My name is Howard Ashford (Evan), and I am running for Co-Chair of the Graduate Employee Organization UAW 2322. I am a 2nd year doctoral student in the W.E.B. DuBois Department of African American Studies. As a GEO member since 2014, I have served the on Elections Committee, Finance Committee, and currently serve as the Black Caucus Coordinator. As a long-time resident of Mississippi, I have battled unfair institutional practices with direct action which has resulted in change. I am battle tested and ready to fight for and with my fellow graduate workers to ensure they receive the highest work and living quality while working for the University of Massachusetts Amherst. I will bring strong and fair leadership that is currently lacking in our current co-chair leadership. The current co-chair leadership regime has displayed divisive and dishonest practices that has prompted me to run in order to advocate for all of my fellow GEO members who deserve an organization that serves them all equally. I will build a STRONGER and more POWERFUL GEO that is rooted in RESPECT, EQUALITY, and FAIRNESS. ONLY IN UNITY CAN WE ACHIEVE VICTORY!!

As Co-Chair, I pledge to fight for the following:

1. Increased pay for graduate student employees and Elimination of co-pays
2. Provide membership with a current version of our contract
3. Bargaining a contract that addresses the needs of ALL of our graduate student workers
4. Tougher punishments for administration and faculty who violate the worker contract
5. Updating the GEO bylaws so that loopholes and unclear language cannot be used to benefit the few at the expense of the entire membership.
6. Elimination of discrimination from within GEO. No member should feel that they are not welcomed within GEO.
7. Cutting waste from the budget
8. Reforming the caucus system
9. Ending the current patronage system that has persisted under current co-chair leadership
10. Creating a transparent organization that truly restores POWER to the MEMBERSHIP!

A VOTE FOR HOWARD IS A VOTE FOR VICTORY!