



Los Angeles County Federation of Labor, AFL-CIO
CSULB, Internship Program
Summer 2023
-FOR CREDIT INTERNSHIP-

OUR STORY

Since 1885, the LA Fed has been a force for equality and opportunity in Los Angeles. We are a federation, representing more than 300 affiliated unions with common values. Our mission is to safeguard the rights of working people and make a real difference for their families and communities.

We empower workers to organize, because that's the best way to ensure good, safe jobs. We fight for anyone who believes in the American Dream, especially those who have systematically been kept from it. We support policies and campaigns that will transform LA. We don't take baby steps, we leap forward to create lasting change. We're proud of our 100-year history, but our eyes are fixed on the next hundred years.

OUR HISTORY

We go back—way back. For a long time, the wealthy elites that more-or-less ran LA made sure it was an anti-union (and anti-worker) town. The labor movement had to out-think and out-organize against impossible odds. We had to take power where there was none—a lesson that continues to inform our work.

In the beginning, the LA Fed was called the Central Labor Council and the situation was messy. By bringing unions together, we helped amplify their voice and solidify their power so workers got a better deal at the bargaining table. Today the LA Fed represents more than 300 unions and 800,000 workers.

One of the first campaigns was the fight for the minimum wage. Not the \$15 per hour minimum we passed in 2015—the original minimum wage. The LA Fed provided hot meals to unemployed workers, helped usher in the 8-hour workday, and organized a serious challenge to the city's power brokers. They didn't take it lightly. In 1915, the Los Angeles Times, which was then a rabidly conservative paper that represented the interests of the business elite, declared we had breathed our "dying gasp." One-hundred-and-one years later, we're still breathing.

In more recent decades, a series of visionary leaders such as Jim Wood, Miguel Contreras, and Maria Elena Durazo helped to reinvigorate the labor movement in LA and open our doors ever wider. They created new, safer, better jobs. They took up the cause of immigrants' rights and made the labor movement a more powerful political force than at any other time in the city's history.

Under the leadership of Rusty Hicks, who previously served as the LA Fed's political director, we won a historic increase in the minimum wage, doubled sick days for workers, pushed LA City and County to crack down on wage theft, negotiated agreements for the NFL stadium, and passed a game-changing initiative – affordable housing built by Angelenos who need the jobs most, including veterans.

The LA Fed is currently being led by President Ron Herrera, who serves as the Secretary Treasurer of Teamsters Local 396 and the Vice President of the Western Region of the International Brotherhood of the Teamsters.



WHAT WE DO

Organizing — More than 100 years experience tells us that unions and the right to bargain collectively are the best way to create good, safe jobs. We empower workers by connecting them to the skillsets and tools needed to improve their workplace conditions

Politics — We support progressive leaders who have vision and compassion, and who fight for working people.

Campaigns — We push for transformational change with initiatives like Prop. JJJ to create more affordable homes and LA Raise the Wage to reduce poverty.

Vision — The struggles we face today are urgent, but we also have to plan for the future. We're looking decades ahead to prepare for a changing world, where issues like the gig economy, robotics, and machine learning may threaten shared prosperity.

LA FED CULTURE

The LA Fed is a small organization with the capacity to accomplish amazing feats. We are able to do this by being strategic in what we take on, working across departments, honoring each others' talents and supporting each other when and where we need help. Every person at the organization works extremely hard, communicates well and treats others with respect. Staff are accountable to the President, department leaders, to our executive board and more than anything else, to workers.

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SCOPE OF WORK

Supervising Staff

Jocelyn Ruiz, Organizer

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Cell: 310-461-9692

Overview of Internship

Interns will spend their time supporting the LA Fed's Organizing Department. Interns will conduct research on various topics related to regional organizing campaigns.

Additional project details are outlined below. Projects are subject to change based on the need and capacity of the LA Fed.

Political Research

Interns will gather data for targeted political and organizing campaigns. Data gathering will consist of compiling lists of candidate information and political organizations by region.

Information gathered will include term limits, party affiliation, jurisdiction and trajectory.

Trainings will be provided. Interns will be asked to prepare a presentation and memo of all data gathered.



Corporate Research

Interns will gather information on small corporations within the LA County region. Interns will create corporate profiles.

Community Services

Interns will help volunteer recruitment and logistics support for the LA Fed's community services offered to working families in crisis.

In Person internship

We are following the CDC guidelines and have returned to in person work. Certain assignments within the internship can be performed remotely, but we will be performing much of our work in person. If CDC guidelines change, you will be offered opportunities to continue the internship remotely.

Mandatory Orientation

Interns are required to attend an in person orientation with the LA Fed to get acquainted with our organization and projects they'll be assigned.

Accountability

Students are required to complete their assignments by the time outlined by the intern supervisor. Timeliness and follow-through are key components of our work, as there are many workers depending on us. If a deadline is unable to be met, it should be communicated to the intern supervisor prior to the deadline.

How to apply:

Send a resume and cover letter to jocelyn@thelafed.org. Deadline to apply is June 1st, 2023.