



“A Better Tomorrow”

Research and Reflections on the Past, Present, Future of Workers

Rutgers IMLR/LEARN 75th Anniversary White Paper Series

Call for Papers

The year 2022 marks the 75th anniversary of the labor education program at Rutgers University. While historical records indicate regular labor education offerings dating back to at least 1926, it was on June 19, 1947, that New Jersey Governor Alfred Driscoll signed into law Assembly Bill 250-A, establishing the Institute of Management and Labor Relations (IMLR). The stated purpose was to promote “harmony and cooperation between management and labor, and greater understanding of industrial and labor relations, thereby to enhance the unity and welfare of the people of the state (McElroy 1995).” In order to carry out this assignment, IMLR was tasked with establishing programs to “develop new material and techniques to aid in carrying on the educational activities.”

While the name and staffing has changed over the years and the vision has expanded to match the changing times, the core mission of the Labor Education Action Research Network (LEARN) remains to enhance the unity and welfare of the people of the state. The timing for this anniversary seems especially appropriate given recent historical events—the onset of a deadly pandemic, the rise of a new movement for civil rights and social justice, and growing threats to American democracy from within. We are living in a time of turmoil, unrest, and change, perhaps leading to a new beginning.

To consider the lessons of the past and present and to ponder possible alternative futures, LEARN is launching a white paper series titled, “A Better Tomorrow: Research and Reflections on the Past, Present, Future of Workers.” The contributions will include original research, reflections from scholars and practitioners, and chapters from forthcoming books by LEARN-affiliated faculty, students, and friends. The papers can range from short essays of 2,000 words up to full length articles of 10,000 words. If you have an idea or a piece you would like considered for this series, please contact LEARN Director, Todd Vachon at todd.vachon@rutgers.edu to submit a pitch or a fully written essay.