February 1, 2016

Dear Labor Leader:

This year marks the fifteenth anniversary of the Labor Summer Internship Program—one of our most successful and important programs—which introduces young people who are passionate about economic and social justice to the labor movement. Over the years, the Labor Summer Internship Program of the UC Berkeley Labor Center has paired more than 200 student interns with more than 80 unions and labor organizations across Northern and Central California. We recruit students from various graduate and undergraduate departments including Public Policy, Urban Planning, Geography, and Social Welfare. The program has an especially high retention rate as 30% of the students in this program go on to work in the labor movement after their internship ends.

We invite your organization to participate in Labor Summer 2016 by applying to host a student intern. To become a host, you would identify a campaign or project in which you are engaged where an intern could learn how unions build power for working people through organizing or applied research and public policy. You describe the role you would want an intern to play, the tasks you would want an intern to do, and any specific skills needed—such as multilingual fluency or working with large data sets. You will be matched with an intern who will be placed with your organization—for 40 hours a week, for seven weeks—from June 27th to August 11th. In past years, students in the learn organizing skills track helped identify leaders, went on house and worksite visits and developed educational materials. Students in the applied research and policy track assisted unions and community-based organizations with policy analysis, industry analysis, and research on regional economic development. Host sites were from the construction trades, central labor councils, the state labor federation, public and private sector unions, community organizations, worker associations and worker centers. Students were placed in the Bay Area, Sacramento, San Jose, Santa Cruz, Merced, and the Central Valley.

The Labor Center recruits, screens, trains, assigns mentors to the students and will work with your staff to help you use the students’ skills effectively for your project. Sites are responsible for on-site supervision as well as covering the pay of the interns. The cost for hosting an intern is $6,200 for an undergraduate student and $7,200 for a graduate student. We typically accept 15 host sites and place a total of 20-25 interns. The deadline to apply is Monday, February 29.

We typically receive 200 applications from students eager to be paired with a union. There are many excellent candidates who already have solid experience working in the labor movement as well as others who have developed impressive organizing and research skills through the broader social justice movement. I encourage you to take advantage of this opportunity and explore hosting an intern this year.

Detailed information on the program including on-line applications is available on our website at http://laborcenter.berkeley.edu/labor-summer/host-intern/. Please sign-up today to guarantee a spot in the program. If you have any questions, contact Karen Orlando at (510) 725-7041 or korlando@berkeley.edu.

Sincerely,

Ken Jacobs
Chair, Center for Labor Research and Education