

Urgent Appeal to Defend our Education!

Start the Fight on March 3rd!

This is an appeal for action in defense of the public education system, which is becoming more and more underfunded at the preschool and K-12 level, and more and more out of reach for working families at the college and university level. This is a serious fracture in society that has increased the cost of living, while wages, healthcare, and job opportunities decrease.

Shall we call for “change” and “hope” to reform the current system of government, when the Obama administration relies on the same fear of “terrorism” as its predecessor? A two-party system walks hand in hand out the capital doors to create the illusion of democracy by the vote ... but through the back door of corporate influence, the politicians are instructed to inform us that going into monstrous debt to acquire an education is an acceptable process in our lives. This back door was created by a system of monopolistic capitalism that preys on individuals who do not have the means to get an education without becoming substantially in debt. How can we spend trillions of dollars to bail out multi-billion dollar corporations, but not have enough money to bail out our youth? The parasitic nature of this system leaves you tied to a financial institution that lobbies your government to keep you in debt. At the same time, many now cannot even obtain proper jobs upon graduation to pay back that burdening educational debt. As a society, we can no longer accept the underfunding of our education system. It creates poverty and debt for the working class majority, and even greater riches for the already wealthy few.

We need a movement to end this outrage! We call for a strong, united **left** (not liberal) front to defend education. We demand free public education from kindergarten through graduate school and beyond! We oppose all cuts to educational programs and jobs, and we demand the restoration of jobs and programs that have been cut back or eliminated. We demand full employment, with decent paying jobs for all who are able to work. No to cuts! No to furloughs! No to layoffs!

Colorado is facing cuts to the public education system that span across the board from kindergarten to higher education. Continued tuition increases for higher education make it even harder and less accessible for students who don't have an equal opportunity in the first place. This is not just a Colorado problem; it is reflected by the increasing attacks on education nationally. It is a delusion to believe that the regents could be “democratized” by electoral schemes. Elected regents would be no more responsive to the needs of working people and students than elected politicians. We say abolish the regents! We call for **faculty, student, staff, and working class community control of the entire Colorado educational system.**

March 4th is the date set for a national “Day of Action” to protest the attacks on education that was born out of the university building occupations in Californian in November 2009. In Colorado, March 3rd is the date set by the Associated Students of Colorado (ASoC) to protest the higher education budget cuts. The ASoC leadership is made up of various student government representatives from around Colorado, and is headed by Andrew Bateman, the student president of Metropolitan State College of Denver. The ASoC proposes to complain nicely and politely to our legislators about the massive cuts to our education, which threaten the future of all Coloradans. Andrew Bateman was quoted, on CCC in the 7News article on March 9, 2009, as saying, “We know that there are going to be budget cuts, but we want them to be equitable.” **This is the attitude of a lemming headed towards the cliff.**

Platitudes like “we want the budget cuts to be equitable” are mere bureaucratic campaign slogans that are regurgitated like the same old two party approaches to gain the support of the people. What leader on Earth would ever start negotiations with a compromised position? Does the poker player show part of his hand to his rival? These are the politics of the reformist. This is a group of academic junior politicians “protesting” the system that will actually be their future employers as lobbyists or corporate shells.

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It is high time for a left united front to discredit people like Andrew Bateman who are trying to show us their “leadership” skills by supporting the current political agenda of attacks waged on the working class. The lunacy of Bateman’s position can only be explained as a rite of passage. The budding politician does not wish to “rock the boat” too much, as his future employers would frown upon someone with views contrary to their political ambitions or to the scams of their lobbyist masters.

The real reason for these attacks is the rotten bankrupt system of capitalism that no longer needs an educated working class. They feel free to jettison your educational opportunities as they seek to reduce their production costs and the entire social wage to compete with the Chinese industrial threat. Big capital is headed down a path that ultimately leads to a path of impoverishment for you. **We must object to this course with militant working class methods.** Above all we need action, more action, and sustained action to enforce our demands for **free tuition, quality education, and full employment.** We must have a strongly represented leftist front to send a message on March 3rd to demand an **end to educational attacks from K-12 through higher education; no to the imperialist wars being waged around the world; down with the corporate suits on the board of regents that dictate to our universities. We demand free tuition and quality education!**

Humanist Workers for Revolutionary Socialism (Denver) calls for a conference in Colorado as soon as possible to address the need for strong working class united action. Organizing for a militant left protest/action is vital to drown out the defeatist noise of the ASoC. It also should be known that one day of action will accomplish nothing. We need to call for the continued defense of education and for attacks on exploitative capitalism with the first spark for Colorado being on March 3rd.

We encourage everyone to start organizing for protest and defense. Please respond as soon as possible, because we don’t have much time to make our voices heard and drown out those that wish to hand over our futures.

- **1) No fee hikes, no layoffs, no furloughs, no cuts in programs, restore lost classes and programs.**
- **2) For open admission with no fees or tuition. For remedial programs to advance those cheated out of an education in the failed K-12 school districts. Living expense stipends for students, to end the debt peonage system enslaving students to the banks. Moratorium on all student loans. For free quality education from day care to the highest level each individual strives to achieve.**
- **3) Down with the Regents, Boards of Trustees, and school boards! For student, faculty, staff, and working class community control over the entire public education system, K-12 through graduate school and adult education.**
- **4) JOBS FOR ALL! Share existing work by implementing 30 hours work for 40 hours pay. For a sliding scale of wages and prices to assure that workers earn enough to take care of a family.**
- **5) Shut down the universities and colleges and keep them shut until our demands are met! For mass, well-defended building occupations by thousands of students across the state, to be maintained until our demands are met.**
- **6) No to symbolic “day of action” protests in place of a real strike. For a militant strike enforced by mass picketing to keep out all scabs and shut the workplace down!**

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