



UE Local 896 – COGS

Campaign to Organize Graduate Students



For immediate release

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A people's webinar aiming to clarify anti-DEI legislation affecting higher education in Iowa

"We have seen this movie before, they were defeated before, and they'll be defeated again."

-Courtland Cox, SNCC veteran, on Iowa's anti-DEI legislation

When: Saturday, March 29th, at noon CST

Where: Online through zoom

What: A webinar, Teaching Beyond Fear, for community members, students, staff, and faculty at Iowa's universities

Why: Iowa has long been known for valuing education. Today, it has some of the most restrictive legislation in the country around educational opportunities. In November, Iowa Board of Regents member David Barker admonished Iowa's public universities to "follow the spirit of the law" and not just the letter regarding laws that seek to stymie diversity, equity, and inclusion at Iowa's public universities. But what is the spirit of the law? While some parts of the law clearly dismantle educational programs, other pieces are vague – the real drive seemingly to roll back gains of the Civil Rights Movement. Laws like these are increasingly being labeled by sociologists and historians as segregationist, even as university officials overly comply, confused by a lack of concrete guidance and fearful of funding cuts.

What do these laws mean for students, staff, and faculty at Iowa's universities?

Join us at a people's webinar, Teaching Beyond Fear, which will offer clarity and context to these regressive laws. Seeing the need for more clarity and vision, a variety of nonprofits across the state have banded together to host a people's webinar featuring experts and activists to answer questions and offer interpretations of these laws.

At the webinar, the hosting organizations will screen a pre-recorded interview followed by a live discussion. The interview will feature Marie Krebs, the managing director for Great Plains Action Society, Henry Hamilton III, Esq., a licensed attorney and civil rights activist, and Courtland Cox, a SNCC veteran and one of the organizers of the 1963 March on Washington. These interviews will be moderated by greg wickenkamp, the acting press and publicity chair for COGS, UE local 896. Featured in the interviews will be questions submitted by students, graduate workers, and faculty at Iowa's regents universities.

Register here: <https://tinyurl.com/YesToDEI>

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About the sponsors: UE local 896, COGS (the Campaign to Organize Graduate Students) is the labor union for graduate student workers at the University of Iowa.

Great Plains Action Society is an Indigenous-led 501(c)4 whose mission is to address the trauma that indigenous peoples and the earth face and work to prevent further colonial capitalist violence, focusing on grassroots community efforts.

Corridor Community Action Network is a 501(c)4 that serves to facilitate resident participation and empowerment, raising awareness about opportunities to improve the quality of life for all individuals in the Iowa Corridor.

Antelope Lending Library is an independent, non-profit bookmobile library working to overcome barriers and provide full and equal access to information and ideas in our community.

Annie's Voice for Change is a 501(c)4 whose mission is to advocate for policies that protect and sustain our public schools, ensuring they are safe and equitable for all students.

The Cross-Cultural Student Coalition is a student organization whose mission is to create space for cross-cultural identities to experience safe and affirming accessibility on and off campus at the University of Iowa.

Public Space One is an artist-led, community-driven, contemporary art center.