



Graduate Labor Organizing Conference of Florida

Inaugural Meeting
October 26-27, 2019
Gainesville, UF Campus

The milestone *Columbia* decision by the National Labor Relations Board in 2016 recognized the rights of graduate workers (teaching and research assistants) in all sectors to organize and collectively bargain. Colleagues at ten universities have recently won recognition, bringing the number of organized campuses in the USA to ninety-two. Dedicated workers are standing up for their rights and struggling for recognition on several campuses and existing unions cannot rest on their laurels. The Southeast is an especially challenging environment, *but we are not alone!*

UF's chapter of Graduate Assistants United (FEA, NEA, AFL-CIO) invites our colleagues to meet, share and discuss the under-studied topic of graduate organizing! Whether you research or teach, in biology, history, economics or art, you have insights into the reproduction of your field, your depiction in culture or into the politics of labor.

CALL FOR PROPOSALS

We invite academics to participate in our inaugural conference to discuss labor issues facing graduate employees who lead classes, work as teaching assistants and as research assistants. We invite abstracts for academic presentations and discussion round-tables. Please submit by **August 30**. Notifications will arrive **September 9**. Papers will be organized into panels based on their fit and synergy. The forum will also be an opportunity for promising junior academics as well.

WHO PARTICIPATES?

All college and university graduate assistants, professors and undergraduates are welcome to attend and participate. See ufgau.org for submission guidelines, prizes for papers in undergraduate and graduate categories, as well as for accommodations, directions and reimbursement. Accepted academic papers and presentations will be officially published.

HOW DO WE UNDERSTAND NEW OBSTACLES IN AMERICA TODAY?

- ... What lessons lie in the history of social movements? Who and where are our allies?
 - ... How have we persevered in adverse political conditions?
 - ... What political and societal trends are favorable? What is to be done next?
- ... What is the value of the graduate assistant to the university? To the discipline?
 - ... What unique roles do university labs play in research?
 - ... Where would restricted substance research be without the university lab?
- ... What is the value of a union to the graduate assistant or to labor in general?
 - ... What insights do you have from surveying your co-workers?
 - ... How are the international graduate workers respected—or not?

See our website for paper and presentation suggestions by field of study, research, interest and position.