

ILSR *educationworks!*

Rhode Island Institute for Labor Studies & Research

Fall 2007

Workforce Literacy, Education and Training

Bob Delaney is named new ILSR director



Bob Delaney, shown at the 2007 Annual Awards Dinner, began his duties as executive director of the Institute in June.

Robert Delaney is the new director of the Institute, succeeding Chuck Schwartz, who led the Institute for 20 years.

Bob comes to the Institute from CCRI, where he was Director of Project Development since 1996. A native of Nova Scotia, Canada, he was a teacher and union president in Canada.

A Message from the Director

Most people think that summer is a slow period for institutions involved in education and training, but the last two months have been a busy time at the Institute.

Since becoming Executive Director in late June, I've spent time meeting with the staff, union leaders around the state, and organizations and companies the Institute serves to better understand their needs so we can be more responsive in the content, times and locations of our program offerings.

For more than 25 years, the Institute has built a solid foundation of education and training programs that

serve more than 3,000 people a year. My goal is to take the Institute to the next level.

We have modified our front office and conference room to accommodate a higher level of customer service and program delivery. We have launched a

“My goal is to take the Institute to the next level.”

new website that's easier to navigate and will provide the most current information on our programs and services. The website will also provide the opportunity to register for any of more than 250 on-line courses or traditionally offered programs.

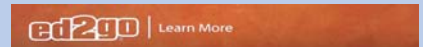
We have spent time this summer drafting a partnership between the Institute and CCRI to create the Success Center at ILSR. The center will be able to provide more comprehensive services for our clients from entry through degree granting programs.

Our hope is to better assess our clients' academic readiness and career related goals and provide training and support through a range of offerings that will continue to include ESL and GED prep as well as counseling and advising, study skills support, reading writing and math preparation and first level Community College credit courses.

I look forward to meeting with you to determine how the staff and I can help you “create your future,” whether you

are an individual, a union or other partner organization. Your continued support of the Institute is essential to our growth and continued success. I appreciate your long tradition of support, and look forward to continuing our work together.

A sampling of the new Institute catalogue



In our effort to bring more educational opportunities to the working people of Rhode Island, the Institute for Labor Studies is pleased to announce a new learning collaboration with ed2go, providing over 250 on-line courses for enrichment, certification, or college credit; a continuation of our partnership with the RI Department of Administration Office of Training and Development to offer incentive credit courses; our customized trainings for unions and other groups; and open enrollment courses, including Workplace Spanish, Leadership, and grievance handling. The Institute will also host classes in English and Spanish in blueprint reading and CAD (computer aided design).

The Institute course catalogue will be available in October. We are committed to offering you every educational opportunity to reach your personal or career goals.

educationworks!

Workforce Literacy, Education and Training

\$190K for WAEP

The Institute received a \$190,000 grant from the RI Department of Education that will fund the Workplace Adult Education Project for the upcoming year.

The funds will be used to support programs that enable workers to improve their English language skills, study for a high school equivalency or upgrade their job skills *at their place of employment*.

The award ceremony, where all the agencies funded by RIDE were recognized, was held on July 9th at the Genesis Center in Providence.

Customized trainings

The Institute provides uniquely designed educational and training opportunities. Over the past several months, the Institute provided training to a number of local unions.

In mid-June, more than 30 leaders and representatives from LIUNA Local 808 met with federal mediator Paul Chabot for Basic Steward Training.

Later in the summer, ILSR Development Manager Roger Boudreau conducted a similar workshop for Building

Representatives of the North Smithfield Education Association.

In mid-August, more than a dozen SEIU Local 580 leaders convened for an advanced training in Grievance Handling. Joined by a representative from AFCSME Local 301, all had previously attended a Basic Training workshop in March.

The ILSR offers workshops designed to meet the needs of labor groups in the context of labor-management relations. Call Roger at 463-9900.

Accident at work? Know Your Rights!

What should you do if you get hurt or have an accident at work? It is very important that you follow these steps and advice:

Notify your superior or employer and a doctor immediately about the injury or when you realize that a sickness is work-related.

Fill out the Accident Report Form and ask for a copy for your own records. This form is proof that you reported the accident.

Seek medical attention immediately. You have the right to choose your doctor or a medical center. Your employer *cannot* require you to get treatment from a doctor of their choosing.

Workers' Compensation may pay for everything related to the medical expenditures if your condition is related to work even if you do not miss a day of work.

The employer must report the injury/illness to the State of RI and to its insurance company if you seek

medical treatment and/or miss more than three days of work because of the injury. You will not receive benefits until the insurance company receives the report of your injury/illness.

If you want to make sure your accident was reported by the company, call the RI Department of Labor & Training at 401-462-8100 and press "1."

Remember: All disputes in the RI Workers' Compensation System are heard by the RI Workers' Compensation Court. If you or your attorney has filed for a hearing before the Court, you can apply to Temporary Disability Insurance (TDI) for benefits while awaiting a decision of the Workers' Compensation Court. Their telephone number is 401-462-8420

This information and more can be found in the brochure, "Do You Know Your Rights in Case of an Accident at Work," and is available by calling the Immigrant Workers' Rights Project at the Institute for Labor Studies at 401-463-9900.

Leadership for a Future

Since 2000, nearly 200 emerging and established leaders from community groups, labor unions and the religious community have taken the skills learned at Leadership for a Future, the Institute's program run in collaboration with Rhode Island for Community & Justice, and gone back to their communities to effect change.

Leadership for a Future begins its 2008 schedule with a weekend retreat in February followed by seven Saturday morning sessions through May. Saturday sessions include a brief history of labor in RI; grassroots and on-line organizing; collaboration and relationship building; lobbying; public speaking; and more.



Leadership For a Future 2007 graduates at the Institute's 27th Annual Awards dinner.

For more information, or to request a brochure, contact Carolina Bernal, program director, at 401-463-9900.



A stirring and provocative keynote speech was delivered by Stewart Acuff, Director of Organizing for the AFL-CIO. Acuff also reminisced about his early days of organizing in Providence with Chuck, George Nee and Rick Brooks.



Lester Schwartz presented the first Charles V. Schwartz Service Award to Nancy Langrall, policy advisor for Jack Reed, who represented the award's inaugural recipient U.S. Senator Jack Reed. Senator Reed addressed the audience via a videotape.



Diane Dolphin holding the awards given to Chuck by the APWU Local 387 and by the United Way of RI.

An Evening to Remember

On Thursday, May 17, 2007, more than 250 friends and relatives convened to celebrate the life and legacy of former ILSR Executive Director Charles V. "Chuck" Schwartz at the Institute's 27th Annual Awards Evening Dinner. As in 2006, the 2007 edition of the dinner was held at the RI Convention Center in downtown Providence.

Centerpieces with Chuck's photo graced the tables of the Convention Center ballroom as guests were introduced to graduates from the past year's literacy programs and the 2007 graduating class of the Institute's Leadership For A Future. Hosting the evening was Larry Purtill, President of NEA Rhode Island.

The speaking program this year was designed to reflect the immeasurable contributions which Chuck Schwartz made to labor education and to the lives of thousands of working people in Rhode Island. Chuck passed away on July 21, 2006.

Memorial Scholarships, to be awarded annually to a student in the Labor Studies programs at URI and at RI College, were presented by Chuck's wife, Diane Dolphin, to Benjamin Terry and Stephen Iannazzi, respectively. Especially fitting was the speech that Stephen, a former student of Chuck's, gave to honor his mentor.

United States Senator Jack Reed was the recipient of the first Charles V. Schwartz Service Award for distinguished service on behalf of working people; the award was presented by Chuck's father, Lester Schwartz, to Nancy Langrall, policy advisor to Sen. Reed, who was in Washington, D.C.

Diane Dolphin accepted a posthumous service award given to Chuck by the United Way of RI and presented by COO Armeather Gibbs, and a commemorative remembrance from the postal workers (APWU Local 387).

The program concluded with a specially prepared video, Chuck's favorite medium, offering a retrospective of his work and presence, accompanied live by Chuck's good friend Rick Brooks singing "People Like You."

New Catalogue will include many new courses

You may have noticed that this issue of the Institute's newsletter, EducationWorks!, does not have the usual course and workshops page.

Since the arrival of the Institute's new director in June, we have been working to expand the educational opportunities offered by the Institute.

With that in mind, we are devoting the entire contents of the newsletter to news of the Institute. We will publish a separate course catalogue which will list new courses and new resources for career development.

The new course catalogue will be in the mail and available at the Institute offices and on our redesigned website in October.

Thank you for your interest in Institute courses and workshops. We think you will be pleased and surprised by what you will find in the new catalogue.



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WHAT'S INSIDE!

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Our newsletter EducationWorks! is published twice a year and is designed to share with our readers the latest news and information about the Institute for Labor Studies.

13th Annual McElroy Golf Tournament



More than 70 golfers and a dozen volunteers joined forces on a warm, mostly sunny August 24th to support this year's 13th edition of the annual scholarship fundraising event, the Edward McElroy Golf Tournament.

Corporate and organizational support from organized labor was strong once again with almost fifty sponsors contributing to the event's success. Notable luminaries joined the tournament's namesake for a competitive round of golf at Swansea Country Club. Ed McElroy's foursome, including Providence mayor David Cicilline, was bested by

the foursome led by AFL-CIO Secretary-Treasurer George Nee, playing with former Warwick mayor Joe Walsh.



The team of Frank J. Montanaro (3rd from left), chair of the ILSR board.

During the past year, the Institute's scholarship fund provided almost \$10,000 in scholarship support for students in the Institute's adult literacy programs, as well as support for



Ernie Baptista, Ed McElroy, the Honorable David Cicilline, and Bob Struck (left to right).

students of the Institute's Leadership For A Future program.

The success of this year's event will insure that the same level of support continues to be made available to assist working people to meet their educational goals. The Institute is grateful for the strong support which our sponsors provide annually.