

Leadership, Education and Development Institute (LEAD) Tacoma, Washington April 13-18, 2025

The ILWU will host a Leadership, Education and Development Institute (LEAD) in Tacoma, Washington, April 13-18, 2025.

The theme of this year's conference is "*I am the ILWU.*" International Secretary-Treasurer Ed Ferris, who attended LEAD in 2010 as a rank-and-file member of Local 10, described the urgency of leadership training in strengthening the union and facing challenges on the horizon. "Our union needs you. The time to step up is now," he said.

Topics in the upcoming conference include:

- **Communication skills building**
- **Strategic organizing**
- **Union and community engagement**
- **Effective union meetings**
- **The ILWU's history, values, and diversity**

Instructors are drawn from ILWU ranks, university labor centers, and longtime labor educators and activists.

Local unions and affiliates may nominate participants, who are each required to complete an application form. Priority consideration will be given to new officers and rank-and-file activists who have not yet participated in any previous LEAD conferences. For reasons of space and diversity, we have seats for two participants from each local, but do our best to accept additional participants as space allows.

The LEAD budget will cover participants' hotel stay, breakfast, lunch, training materials, facilities, and instructors. Participants will be housed together in double rooms but may upgrade to single rooms at their own expense. Any reimbursement for expenses such as lost wages or travel will have to be covered by the participant or their local or IBU region, or by area fundraising activities.

Interested members should fill out an online application, which is available at <http://www.ilwu.org/Education>.

Educational Services Director Robin Walker is also available to help answer any questions.