



PREPARING THE NEXT GENERATION OF WORKERS

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Union leaders offer their perspectives to millennials

“Look to history for just how important and influential young people in the workforce can be. Most of the unions that are members of the AFL-CIO were founded by young people who had a vision that their communities, their workplaces, their society could be a better place. They believed they could change history.”

Damon Silvers, Policy Director and Special Counsel, AFL-CIO



“Millennials are taking their part of leadership in the workforce in droves, and there is a tension between millennials rising up to leadership and baby boomers needing to move out of the way. This is natural and it’s good because these new leaders that are stepping up into the movement are what’s needed to bring fresh ideas.”

Valarie Long, Executive Vice President, Service Employees International Union (SEIU)



“Know your rights on the job, and get together with your co-workers to try to improve workplace situations that are less than satisfactory. There’s a lot you can do working together. Recognize there is strength in numbers.”

Steve Early, Member of The NewsGuild-CWA, Active for 45 years in the labor movement



“Millennials can teach us an awful lot because they are the union members of the future. In turn, we have seen that millennials want to talk to people with more work experience because it gives them insight into what the world is really like.”

Christopher Shelton, President, Communications Workers of America (CWA)



“Don’t settle for anything less than the wage it takes for you to support your family.”

Marc Perrone, President, United Food and Commercial Workers International Union (UFCW)



“Understand where you want to go and how you want to get there. Understand the kinds of protections that exist for you as a worker right now, but also understand that a lot of these are being taken away. Collectively, workers can make the American dream happen but they’ve got to fight for it every single day.”

Lee Saunders, President, American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees (AFSCME)



Note: Based on Economist Intelligence Unit interviews with union leaders held between October 2016 and January 2017.

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