



# UNIÓN DEL BARRIO

CONCIENTIZACIÓN · ORGANIZACIÓN · ACCIÓN · LIBERACIÓN

## Unión del Barrio stands both in support of free public education as well as workers rights

September 23, 2009

Unión del Barrio stands both in support of free public education as well as workers rights. Therefore, we uphold and defend the educational general strike announced to take place this Thursday, September 24, 2009.

Brave students, faculty, and staff at dozens of university campuses across California are rallying to demand an end to the unrestrained destruction of public higher education throughout the state. Clearly, what is currently taking place represents an unrestrained acceleration of the ongoing privatization of public universities under the guise of budgetary crisis.

The administration of universities across this state has not been transparent for decades, nor has the well-being of students, faculty, and staff been a priority. The true criminals in this funding fiasco are UC and Cal State executives and administrators, California legislators, this (and previous) governors, democrats, republicans, and the thousands of private corporate interests that define political power throughout the state.

Over the last 25 years, these interests captured and restructured the UC and Cal State systems of higher education in the state of California, and aggressively dismantled the vision of these as public institutions providing for the educational development of young people. In universities across the state, the social sciences were undermined, student activism was maligned, the rights of university workers were crushed, progressive faculty was harassed, and freedom of speech was curtailed.

Instead, powerful groups enabled or endorsed the current establishment of universities as profit driven ventures, committed principally to the advancement of private interests. As a consequence of their neoliberal educational order, in times of economic crisis, banks and large corporations are bailed out with public funds, while students, faculty and staff are cut, laid-off, furloughed, and dismissed.

They hoped to redefine public institutions as spaces committed to the educational preparation of profit driven graduates, disciplined consumers, and self-interested defenders of the status quo. The statewide mobilizations planned for September 24<sup>th</sup> are proof that they have failed.

*Fee increases, furloughs, and lay-offs* are phrases that must serve as a clear reminder of the priorities of those in power. Unión del Barrio on the other hand, aligns itself with the workers and students who voice their demands, reclaim their rights, and come together in direct action defending their, and our, educational future.

¡Ni un paso atrás!

¡Que vivan los estudiantes y trabajadores!

Unión del Barrio, Comité Central

*“Que la universidad se quede sin puertas,  
o sino el pueblo las romperá,  
y él pintara la universidad  
con los colores que le parezca.”  
– Ernesto Che Guevara*