

# What is the GEU?



South Sound General Education Union, or GEU for short, is a branch of The Industrial Workers of the World, Education and Research Workers Industrial Union 620 ([iww.org](http://iww.org)). GEU was founded in the spring of 2018 by students and workers at The Evergreen State College (TESC) to organize for democratic control of the college and to bargain for better wages, benefits and working conditions for faculty and staff--while ultimately working for the abolition of the wage system.

The GEU exists in support of the following objectives:

A) The extension of union membership to education workers who are currently not part of a union, at TESC and at other institutions of public education, and a space to work for a more radical and democratic model of union organization for those already represented by existing education unions;

B) Encouragement of the radical educational experience at TESC, and the ultimate democratization of education at all institutions of learning. We want to decide which classes, programs, and services are funded, and we want all voices to be heard;

C) The creation of a long-term alliance of students, staff and faculty against capitalism and hierarchy.

D) The removal of police from TESC and other school campuses.

As a branch of the IWW Education and Research Workers Industrial Union 620, South Sound GEU defines “education workers” as, and seeks to organize, *“all workers in educational institutions including educators, students, and those in industries auxiliary to education including testing services, educational consulting services, dedicated school bus services, etc. All workers in research institutions including foundations and museums, enterprises primarily engaged in providing technical and scientific services, and in research laboratories not attached to educational institutions.”*

## What Have We Accomplished?

In November 2018 the GEU began campaigning to prevent the campus police from expanding and to reinstate faculty positions in the arts and political sciences. In Feb 2019 TESC administration decided to not replace a campus cop, who mysteriously “quit” after the campaign began, and to rehire one political economy and one community media faculty.

Questions? Want to get involved?

Our meetings are held Thursday evenings from 4:30 to 6:30, in RM 0406 on TESC campus in the Library basement.

Contact us through Facebook or Email

<https://www.facebook.com/IWWsouthsoundgenedunion/>

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*“We strive for an educational system, and then a world, run democratically, without hierarchy, without oppression on the basis of socially-constructed identities, without fear or want, with inclusion, with acceptance, with justice that heals rather than wounds, and with an all-embracing community truly of life; a community in which all will teach as we learn, all will learn as we teach, and what is taught and learned will be the blueprint for the world we need. We believe this world can be achieved through organization and class struggle.”*

- South Sound GEU Preamble

## Points Of Unity



- We want universal free education from pre-kindergarten through college, where all debts related to education are forgiven, and all classroom costs are fully and publicly subsidized.
- We want full popular control of all educational institutions: in which students, faculty, and staff manage all campus affairs, using a democratic and non-hierarchical decision making process.
- We want all schools to divest from every corporation and move towards campus autonomy.
- We stand in solidarity with education workers in pre-existing unions.
- We seek to represent all people in education who are either not in a union, or who want to join us (with the exception of administrators that can hire/fire or expel people, and the campus police).
- We stand in international solidarity with the working class against global capitalist and imperialist exploitation.
- We want reforms that lead toward revolutionary change.
- We want racial justice, gender justice, divergency (disability) justice and end of all hierarchies.
- We want our educational institutions to be ecologically healthy and reflect our commitment to fight climate change.
- We want to end all militarization of educational institutions, including but not limited to the existence of campus police and military recruitment. We also want to end all cooperation of educational institutions with the military and police.
- We stand for non-hierarchical restorative justice rather than incarceration.