

# JANE F. MCALEVEY

E M A I L : J M C A L E V E Y @ I G C . O R G

## PRESENT

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Doctoral Graduate, May 2015, Sociology Program at the City University of New York Graduate Center. Recipient, Chancellor's Fellowship Award (2010–2015). American Dissertation Fellow, American Association of University Women (2014–2015).

During PhD program: Contributing Writer, *The Nation* (many articles published while working on my doctorate). Author, *Raising Expectations (and Raising Hell)* (Verso 2012; in its third print run). Sole author of a chapter in a 2014 Cornell Press book edited by Milkman & Ott, *New Labor in New York*. Regular consultant to unions in the United States on development of leadership capacity, strategic planning, power analysis, bargaining strategy, and creating high-participation unions. Developed leadership workshops in Ireland, England, and Canada in 2014 and 2015

Forthcoming September 2015 article in *Politics & Society*, which the editors chose to make into the central focus of a symposium, where other academics will respond to my examination of the New Voices era in the U.S. labor movement (1995–2015). This is only the third time the journal has created a symposium on an article.

## EXPERIENCE

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### **2004–2008 Service Employees International Union, Nevada**

*Executive Director and Chief Negotiator*

- Chief Operating Executive for SEIU Nevada.
- Tripled the size of the union over four years and expanded SEIU into a statewide union with organizing wins in Reno/Washoe County, as well as Elko.
- Successfully elected two candidates to high office against a stiff and well-funded opposition.
- Successfully negotiated over a dozen contracts with some of the nation's most powerful hospital companies, as well as with governmental entities.
- Developed the highest membership percentages and political contribution percentages of any right-to-work state in SEIU history.
- Election Member, International Executive Board (IEB).

### **2001–2004 Service Employees International Union DC**

*National Deputy Director for Strategic Campaigns, Health Care Division*

- Worked primarily with individual local unions on strategic market-wide organizing, understanding power, creating comprehensive campaigns, bargaining, and electoral efforts.
- Coordinated successful the national "Put Families First" campaign (the multimillion-dollar endeavor in 2003 to save Medicaid), which reversed the \$96 million cut on Medicaid and added \$20 billion in an emergency appropriation to save state-based Medicaid programs.
- Led a successful campaign to undo the largest merger and acquisition deal in national hospital-industry history and condition the final agreement on community benefits, (including unionization rights for the employees and many side agreements for the

**1998–2001 National AFL-CIO, Stamford, CT**

*Senior Organizer/Campaign Director, Stamford Organizing Project*

- Directed one of the only successful multiunion campaigns in the history of the merged AFL-CIO.
- Organized thousands of workers into unions in three years, dramatically improving their economic and political standing at work and in society.
- Changed state and municipal housing policy in Stamford and Connecticut, defeating a state attempt to privatize all public housing and winning a campaign to put millions of new state funds into affordable-housing programs.
- Managed successful campaigns to put the first African American and Latina on the city council and the board of education.
- Directed a staff of forty, hosted annual summer internship programs for dozens of college students interested in working for the labor movement.

**1994–1997 The Veatch Program Foundation. Shelter Rock, NY**

*Senior Program Director*

- Directed over four million dollars in annual grantmaking with the largest focus on developing new thinking and strategies in the U.S. environmental movement.
- Established two new funding areas: Globalization and Popular Education, managing an additional one million dollars in these program areas.
- Selected by foundation peers to serve as annual co-chair of the Environmental Grantmakers Association annual conference.
- Held positions in various foundation trade associations as a part of an effort to move larger foundation dollars into base-level grassroots organizing on the environment, energy, jobs, and citizen participation.

**1991–1994 The Highlander Research and Education Center, TN**

*Globalization and Our Environment Program Director*

- Codirected joint institutional program between the National Toxics Campaign and the Highlander Research and Education Center to educate and organize thousands of grassroots activists about the implications of globalization (specifically multilateral trade agreements).
- Created the Globalization Program at the Highlander Center and developed an international campaign arm for the National Toxics Campaign.
- Served as the Associate Director of the Highlander Center from 1992–1993.

**1990–1991, Central European Environmental Partnership, NYC**

*Co-Founder, Trainer*

- Conducted six separate multiweek leadership workshops with the emerging civic leaders in Poland, former Czechoslovakia, and Hungary, utilizing the Midwest Academy of Organizing training methods.
- Educated dozens of leading U.S. community and union organizers about globalization by taking them to conduct leadership workshops in Central and Eastern Europe.

**1988–1991 Earth Island Institute, San Francisco, CA**

*Director, Environmental Project on Central America*

- Directed a team to educate and activate the national environmental movement as it related to U.S. military and economic policy in Central America in the 1980s.
- Led three tours of the nation’s most prominent environmental leaders through Central America on fact-finding missions to study the root causes of the environmental crisis in the region, including U.S. economic and foreign policies.
- Organized a three-thousand-person conference on environment and development in Central America, bringing worldwide environmental and peace activists together to understand the common roots of war and environmental destruction.

**1984–1986 Student Association of the State of New York, Albany**

*Chair, then President & Member, Board of Trustees of SUNY*

- Changed New York State laws that prohibited college students from voting in their college communities (a constitutional law established in 1973) and unseated dozens of conservative candidates statewide.
- Led a successful campaign to divest the State University of New York’s interest in the largest single sum of money invested in South Africa at the time.
- Defeated the largest tuition increases ever proposed in the State University system and defeated a state law to impose a “differential tuition” scheme in New York’s public university system to create a two-tier educational program based on income, not merit.
- Used New York students as the base to defeat President Reagan’s attempt to gut the Higher Education Reauthorization Act in 1986, (the act which funds all student financial aid programs).

RELATED EXPERIENCE

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- Directed and produced two documentary shorts on the largest health care strike in Connecticut history, 2001.
- Floor Manager and Ballot Counting National Training Director, Florida Presidential Election Re-Count, 2000.
- Senatorial Appointment, Connecticut Governor’s Blue Ribbon Commission on Affordable Housing, 2000.
- Trainer, Cornell University’s Institute for Labor Relations, Summer Institute, 1999–present, Ithaca, NY.

- Adjunct Professor, Cornell University's School for Industrial Labor Relation, Spring Semester 2002 (courses on union organizing, bargaining, power, and strategy).
- Chair, Program Committee, Environmental Grantmakers Association, 1996.
- Member, Youth Action Board of Directors, 1990–1994.
- Chair, the United States Student Association, 1985.
- Trainer, the Midwest Academy of Organizing, 1985–1986.
- Trustee, New York State Higher Education Services Corporation, 1985–1986
- Elected Student Body President, State University of New York at Buffalo, 1983.
- Trustee, State University of New York, 1985–1986 (defacto with my election as statewide student association).

#### INTERESTS

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Telemark and Backcountry Skiing, Backpacking, Bike Touring, Kayaking, Rock-Climbing, Horseback Riding, Yoga, and Traveling

#### RELATED SKILLS

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- Spanish Fluency, French basics.
- Trained in graphic design; well-versed in most common computer software.
- Guest lecturer at dozens of college campuses nationwide on globalization and the environmental crisis, 1990–1992.
- Extensive international travel (including structured volunteer work in Central America from 1986–1988).