IWL: Rapid Response Team against Wage Theft

Community building between students and the workers of New Labor.

December 11th 2013
The Leadership Scholars Certificate Program is a two-year selective, interdisciplinary certificate program that prepares Rutgers undergraduate women to be informed, innovative, and socially responsible leaders.

Leadership Scholars design and implement social action projects to expand their understanding of issues and problems and to develop leadership skills.

This project gives Scholars the opportunity to apply the theoretical knowledge they have gained about leadership, advocacy, and social change with the practical and experiential knowledge they have developed about a particular policy issue or problem through the field site placement. It also further develops leadership skills by giving undergraduates the opportunity to practice leadership through action.

To find out more please visit the Institute for Women’s Leadership’s website at http://iwl.rutgers.edu.
What is New Labor?

New Labor is a worker center located in downtown New Brunswick dedicated to improving working conditions locally as well as providing a voice for the immigrant workers in NJ.

Guided by 5 Fundamental Principles:

- Working Together, Creating Opportunities, Respect, Empowerment, Equality.
What is Wage Theft?

“Wage theft refers to the non- or under-payment of wages to workers for work already performed, according to the terms of agreement between employee and employer and the mandates of law.”

-Unity Square, Wage Theft Briefing.
Wage Theft on a National Level

- 60% of nursing homes stole workers’ wages
- 89% of non-monitored garment factories in LA and 67% of non-monitored garment factories in NYC stole workers’ wages
- 78% of restaurants in New Orleans stole wages
- ½ of day laborers who focus on construction work have had their wages stolen
- 100% of poultry plants have stolen workers’ wages
Wage Theft in New Brunswick

- Survey of Unity Square neighborhood reported that 1/6 houses have experienced wage theft in the past two years
- 21% of those in the Unity Square neighborhood have reported multiple cases of theft in the past two years
- 85% have been unable to retrieve lost wages


Tawadros, Gilane. Personal Interview. 15 Nov. 2012