The 2018 Labor Research and Action Network (LRAN) national conference will be held Thursday, May 31st and Friday, June 1st at Vanderbilt University. Scholars, labor practitioners, and activists from across the country will convene in Nashville, TN to share new ideas and lessons learned, and connect around research and campaign work. We hope this conference is an opportunity to develop an offensive strategy in the changed political climate nationwide, and to learn from the unique challenges faced by organizers and researchers in the South and in right to work states, including from active campaigns in the Nashville area.

LRAN invites participants from universities, unions, worker centers, and policy centers across the U.S. to submit workshop proposals that focus especially on:

- The interconnection between research and action, including campaigns, policy initiatives, union organizing, coalition-building, or religious community engagement.
- Building connections between academics and community organizations or unions.
- Introducing participants to new research skills or tools and how they are applied to campaigns.
- Racial and gender justice initiatives or campaigns and their research components.
- Organizing and policy campaigns in the South and in right to work states, including local political and policy initiatives and overcoming pre-emption.
- International campaigns featuring cross-border or multi-country research and action.

LRAN conferences have always included a broad range of workshops proposed and organized by attendees from both labor, NGO’s, and academia. Past workshops have included the topics of privatization, racial and gender justice, worker power in the logistics supply chain, the gig economy, and precarious work, coalition building, the public sector and more. Proposals that include a range of participants from different fields or perspectives (i.e. both academics and union activists), and that clearly detail a focus on research-to-action case studies or new strategic research skills will be prioritized. Past workshop formats have included: panel presentations, training/skill shares, paper presentations, video showings/discussion and moderated roundtable discussions.

Workshop submissions are due by Friday March 16th. Proposals are being collected through this form: https://docs.google.com/forms/d/1_8JNrii3dfnWNN8HKCtyp6n9gLNIQm4bcSq49XMVw/edit

Call for Poster Session Proposals

We will also be accepting proposals for a poster session—if you are interested in preparing a visual poster about your research or campaign and being available between sessions to talk to attendees about it, please state in the description it is a poster session and submit your proposal to: https://docs.google.com/forms/d/1_8JNrii3dfnWNN8HKCtyp6n9gLNIQm4bcSq49XMVw/edit

Lodging

Rooms are available on campus. For a single room (twin bed) with a shared restroom the price comes to $93.55, per person, per night. To reserve please call (615)340-7500 prompt #2. Follow the link for pictures:
2016 LRAN Conference Planning Committee: Anne Barnett (Nashville CLC), Jackie Cornejo (Partnership For Working Families), Vonda Daniels (Nashville CLC), Erin Johannson (Jobs With Justice), Adam Kader (ARISE), Tami Lee (Rutgers University), Mariah Montgomery (Partnership for Working Families), Megan Lewis (AFSCME), Cassandra Ogren (Teamster), Joerg Rieger (Vanderbilt University), Rosemarie Rieger (Nashville Organizing for Action & Hope on Co-ops), Ben Woods (Jobs with Justice)

Translation can be provided for non-English speakers.