

# Education for the 99%

## Marching from the Banks to the State House

As the Occupy movement grows in Boston and around the world, the 99% are rising. We are taking back our cities and our government. Now it's time to take back our higher education system.

The bankers and CEOs who have seized control of our democracy are also seizing control of our schools, turning education into a profitable commodity. Universities have adopted a business model where faculty and staff are an expendable resource and students are an exploitable revenue stream. Tuitions and class sizes rise, teachers and staff struggle to secure a living wage and preserve their rights at work, but high-level administrators' salaries continue to climb. Meanwhile, students face crippling debt, held by the same Wall Street banks that crashed the global economy.

**This march is going from the banks to the State Legislature – from those who profit from student loans to those whose continuing cuts lead public colleges to raise fees, resulting in increased student borrowing and debt.**

We are facing a crisis. The amount of student loans taken out last year crossed the \$100 billion mark for the first time and the total of outstanding loans *increases by \$1 million every 6 minutes!* It will exceed \$1 trillion this year, having doubled in the past five years. Americans now owe more on student loans than on credit cards.

The 1% has tried to divide us, pitting students against workers, public schools against private schools, and taxpayers against the entire educational system.

But we won't be divided. Massachusetts students, workers, faculty, and community allies are standing together to reclaim our colleges and universities for the 99%, bringing the occupy movement to the struggle for just, accessible higher education.

We want schools that treat workers and students with dignity. We want accessible, affordable education for all and relief of student debt. We want our institutions of higher learning to work for the public good, not the profit motive.

Jobs with Justice, MassUniting, Public Higher Education Network of Massachusetts, Service Employees International Union, Student-Labor Action Project, UNITE-HERE Local 26