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**Labor Occupational
Safety & Health Program**

August 22, 2023

Dear Educators,

Now in our 21st year, the University of California at Berkeley and Los Angeles, along with the Commission on Health and Safety and Workers' Compensation, are sponsoring a **3-day Young Worker Leadership Academy** held **fully in person** February 15 - 17, 2024. ***This Academy offers a unique opportunity for young adults to become leaders and advocates for teen worker rights in workplace health and safety.***

Every 9 minutes a young worker is injured – twice the rate for adults. Most young people know very little about their rights on the job or what they can do to deal with workplace problems. To help address this problem, we have created the **Young Worker Leadership Academy**. As a result of past Academies, teams of youth have planned and conducted presentations, developed educational materials, and even changed their high school's work permit policies in many communities throughout California!

Each Academy brings together six teams of high school-aged youth (4 youth per team with an adult advisor) from six communities in California. Participants learn about how and why youth are injured at work, their rights on the job, and how youth can have an impact on public policy, at both the local and state level. Each team will plan and carry out a local action to promote teen worker safety during May 2024, Safe Jobs for Youth Month. ***Youth participants will gain first-hand experience in actually making a difference.***

We hope again to assemble a diverse group of participants, including youth ranging from proven leaders to those who may be struggling to reach their full potential. **We are particularly looking for tenth and eleventh graders** who may be able to attend as mentors in a subsequent year. Each team must also have an adult advisor who will attend the Academy and provide support to the team in planning and conducting its team project after the Academy. Apply at <http://youngworkers.org/ywla/> by filling out the Adult Recommendation and Commitment Form.

Encourage students you want to support to form a team, and then complete the Youth Ambassador Application online by **December 5, 2023**. If you have any questions, please contact Liam Chavez (lmchavez4@berkeley.edu).

Sincerely yours,

Yasin Khan
Labor Occupational Health Program UC
Berkeley