



Penny Jennewein



Penny is an organizer with the Penn Student Labor Action Project (SLAP), a group that fights alongside campus workers to build campaigns for justice on Penn's campus. In her junior year, she helped launch SLAP's Justice on the Menu Campaign. Together, students and non-unionized dining workers on Penn's campus were victorious in winning a union and subsequently signing a contract. In her freshman year, Penny co-founded Penn Haven Co-op, Penn's first housing co-op. She is also an active member of the Philly Campaign for Fair Food and active in efforts to build a feminist social atmosphere at Penn through events like Alternate Rush and Alternate Spring Fling. She worked for over a year at a local community foundation, the Bread & Roses Community Fund, and she is currently the Grassroots Fundraising Intern at Media Mobilizing Project.

CAPSTONE PROJECT

“Struggle Is a School: Student Involvement in the Unionization and First Contract Campaigns of Non-Faculty Employees at Elite, Private Universities”

Faculty Advisor: **Dr. Walter Licht**, School of Arts and Sciences, Department of History

Despite widespread attacks on unions from outside the labor movement and the limited organizing taking place inside it, student labor organizing is on the upsurge. Combining innovative organizing with tangible victories, student organizing in collaboration with non-academic, university employees is defying the odds. This research sheds light on the understudied, yet vibrant, history of student involvement in campus organizing efforts at elite private universities including Yale, Columbia, Penn, Harvard, Duke, and Wesleyan. This paper also divides the history of unionization campaigns of non-academic university employees into three waves that follow the trend of social movements in the second half of the 20th and early 21st centuries.