The Historical Collective Bargaining Agreements Project

This is the home of the Cornerstones of the American Middle Class: The Historical Collective Bargaining Agreements Project.

Here you will find information about the project, including planning documents, updates, and links to newly digitized content on DigitalCommons@ILR.

For the latest news about this project, please visit our blog here.

To view Collective Bargaining Agreements digitized with the support of the National Historical Publications and Records Commission, please visit: http://digitalcommons.ilr.cornell.edu/blscontracts2/

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Project Overview

With funding from the National Historical Publications and Records Commission, Cornell University Library will digitize 84,000 pages of Collective Bargaining Agreements (CBAs) from the U.S. Department of Labor Historical Collective Bargaining Agreements Collection at the Kheel Center for Labor-Management Documentation and Archives. The project runs from July 1, 2014 through June 30, 2016.

Roughly 1,660 CBAs representing the American educational and retail sectors have been selected for this project. These will complement the most sought-after materials within the Kheel Center's born-digital holdings of CBAs. When digitized and online, these historical contracts will provide unprecedented access and opportunity for historians, social scientists, and the general public to analyze the terms at the center of historic and ongoing debates about the role of organized labor in America. As one of the foremost labor archives in the United States and the designated labor history repository for the U.S. Department of Labor’s Historical Collective Bargaining Agreements, the Kheel Center's holdings in the area of collective bargaining are unparalleled in the United States.