My presentation will put the current anti-union climate in historical context. I will examine how corporate America worked to marginalize unions by linking them to unpopular causes (like communism) and events (strikes that disrupted the American consumer economy). I will also examine mistakes made by unions themselves that cost them public support.

Richard Tyson, Economist
Associate Professor of Economics
University of Wisconsin-Stout
Ad hoc Arbitrator, Wisconsin Employment Relations Commission

I will discuss the nature, purpose, prevalence, and historical development of collective bargaining in the U.S, how collective bargaining in the public sector differs for the private sector; how public sector bargaining is done in Wisconsin; and how the Budget Repair Bill changes public sector labor relations and its implications.

Jeffrey Sweat, Sociologist
Assistant Professor of Sociology
University of Wisconsin-Stout

How does Wisconsin compare to states that already prohibit public sector collective bargaining? I will consider the claims of public sector overcompensation and the widespread use of “crisis capitalism” to evoke panic in order to further political reforms that favor the wealthiest members of society. Is the recent legislation about the public sector sharing the burden or is it designed to achieve certain political goals at the expense of middle class workers?