



Kat Cancio
(845) 271-9651
Kcancio@afscme.org

Workers at Daniel Boone Regional Library win historic union election

Daniel Boone Regional Library Workers United is now the first active library union in Missouri

Columbia – More than 160 library workers at Daniel Boone Regional Library (DBRL) have overwhelmingly voted to form a union with AFSCME Council 61. The election was conducted by the Missouri State Board of Mediation between May 18-May 21, when workers voted 101 to 55 in favor of the union . The new bargaining unit will consist of staff, librarians and facility workers throughout Boone and Callaway counties at Columbia Public Library (CPL), Callaway County Public Library, Holts Summit Public Library and Southern Boone County Public Library.

Daniel Boone Regional Library Workers United (DBRLWU) first announced intentions to unionize back in early February. Workers began organizing to build a safe and inclusive workplace and address staff issues such as fair and equitable pay, safety, equitable access to information, materials and buildings, and a voice in decisions that affect the library.

Throughout the organizing process, workers received an incredible showing of support from local community and [library workers around the country](#). DBRL staff who testified in support of a union at the library’s monthly Board of Trustees meetings were often greeted by local supporters donning red solidarity clothing for the group’s organizing efforts. A [community letter of support](#) posted on DBRLWU’s website has garnered over 700 signatures to date.

“We’re overjoyed to have won our election, by a nearly 2 to 1 margin,” said Patrick Johnston, a circulation lead assistant at the Columbia branch. “We sent a strong message that workers at the library should have a say in the decisions that affect us,” he said.

Tori Patrick, who also works as a circulation lead assistant at CPL said, “Organizing our union has taught me so much about the power of our collective voice. We look forward to getting the chance to work collaboratively with administration to negotiate our first contract.”

“I’m so proud of the hard work we’ve put towards our well-deserved win. We’re honored to be the first active union library in Missouri!,” said Rowan Walsh, a circulation assistant at CPL.

For more information visit www.dbrlworkers.org.



Statement from Daniel Boone Regional Workers United on Victory

We are so proud to make history as we won our union! Together we voted overwhelmingly in favor of our union 101 to 55 and we are excited to officially begin bargaining as Daniel Boone Regional Library Workers United.

Thank you to our co-workers who worked so hard to make this victory a reality. The bonds we have built over the last few months have been nothing short of incredible, and we look forward to growing even stronger as a united union family.

To our labor allies and community supporters, your letters, pictures, and solidarity helped carry us to the finish line and we are forever grateful.

And lastly, to our entire DBRL community, this victory is as much yours as it is ours. We are looking forward to taking our seat at the bargaining table and ensuring our library is the best it can be for everyone.

With gratitude,

DBRL Workers United