



Wisconsin State AFL-CIO

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Josef Rademacher
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Dear Josef,

Congratulations on winning the 2020 Wisconsin Labor History Society's essay competition!

Your essay offered a unique voice detailing your personal and well-considered perspective. Your words and your work in the community clearly show that the ideals of the labor movement -- justice, fairness, compassion for others and strength in solidarity -- are proudly being passed down generation-to-generation within your family.

While reading your essay I was reminded of my own experience protesting at the Capital with my husband, Douglas, and two sons, Nicholas and Spencer. You said it best when you recalled, "with family tradition at its heart, protesting became our daily family routine."

The event this afternoon and this scholarship program are shining examples of how unions benefit working families everywhere and support the next generation. A strong union movement benefits all generations, uplifting communities by giving each person the chance to use fully the talents and gifts they've been given. Programs like this essay contest help us pass on the values of dignity, respect, and solidarity to the next generation, ensuring that our communities and unions remain strong and vibrant.

In closing, let me congratulate you again on a wonderful essay and on your work within the community. You have clearly embraced the meaning of solidarity in your own life that has been shaped and shared with you by your parents and grandparents. You are now taking that and sharing it with the world. I am so inspired with your passionate embrace of union values. Our future is brighter because of you. Best of luck as you embark on a new and exciting chapter in your life.

In Solidarity,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Stephanie Bloomingdale', written in a cursive style.

Stephanie Bloomingdale
President, Wisconsin AFL-CIO