Class Lives is bringing class stories to life across the country

This spring and summer, Class Action is getting together with many of the authors in the Class Lives anthology for live readings, open mic story jams and class-story sharing activities.

To date we’ve had events in Boston, Philadelphia and Springfield, MA. In the coming months we have 6 more events in New York City, Northampton, MA, Washington DC, Denver, Minneapolis and Seattle. Already we’ve seen powerful emotions and connections unleashed by breaking the silence about our diverse class stories.

Because we at Class Action know the transformative power of sharing class life stories, we don’t see Class Lives as just a book, but a spark to ignite a wildfire of resistance to class injustice. We invite you to join us in fanning the flames.

To find out more about attending an event, buying a copy of Class Lives or downloading a study guide for educators to supplement the book in their classrooms, visit www.classism.org/class-lives. Please help us spread the word!

Digital storytelling project brings First Gen stories to life

This past year Class Action partnered with Jane Van Galen of UW Bothell to unveil a project that will bring the digital stories of first generation college students to life. Thanks to our successful crowd-funding campaign that raised $10K last fall, we now have a mobile digital storytelling lab to bring to campuses and groups across the country.

Visit firstinourfamilies.org to see some of the stories so far. Come back often to see new videos as they are added.
3rd Annual First Generation College Student Summit a Smashing Success

In March, Class Action convened over 200 low-income, working class and first-gen students and their campus allies at Wellesley College. Our goal for the Summit is to provide a place where first gen status is not viewed as a deficiency, but an identity and accomplishment to be proud of.

Students come to share their skills and success stories, tackle their challenges, build strategies for supporting one another and work on action plans for their schools. The staff, faculty and administrators who attend come to learn how they can better support student-driven efforts back home.

In the coming year we hope to increase funding for this powerful program to expand our campus organizing beyond the annual Summit. For more info visit bit.ly/FirstGenSummit

“I didn't expect to see that many people. It made me proud of being First Gen. I loved it!”
2015 Summit Participant

Where we’ve been lately...

In the past 9 months, 17 Class Action trainers have done 25 workshops in 7 states since November, including:

• Bates College
• BEST Corp./Local 26
• Brazilian Women’s Group
• Brooklyn Friends School
• Community Action
• Community Roots Charter School
• CompassPoint Nonprofit Services
• Cooperative Development Institute
• Curry College
• Fayerweather Street School
• Harvard Graduate School of Education
• Homeless Action Center
• Jane Doe Inc.
• New England Grassroots Environment Fund RootsSkills conference
• North Star Fund
• UMass Amherst Clinical Psychology Dept.
• Tilton School
• Vassar College
• Wentworth Institute of Technology
• Wesleyan University
• Women Donors Network

Wellesley and MIT students work on action plans to implement on their campuses

Students attending a student-led session on the intersection of being first-gen and Latino/a

Coming soon: Free Activist Class Cultures online kit

This summer we are excited to be launching a free guide for activists who want to work on making their groups more cross-class and multiracial. This guide will include interactive activities, videos and group discussion guides. Look for it in the early summer months. We can truly only transform our world when the social justice movement is unified across class and race.

Keep an eye out for our Summer 2015 launch!