



**Welcome to Purple Wednesdays!**



Starting this Wednesday, your union will be sending biweekly Purple Wednesday emails with updates on bargaining, campaigns, and other important information.

To show UIC that we are standing united, it's time to relaunch #PurpleWednesdays! Participation is easy, just wear your Local 73 purple swag - buttons, winter hats, or hoodies – or any purple on Wednesdays. Join your coworkers by purpling up next Wednesday!

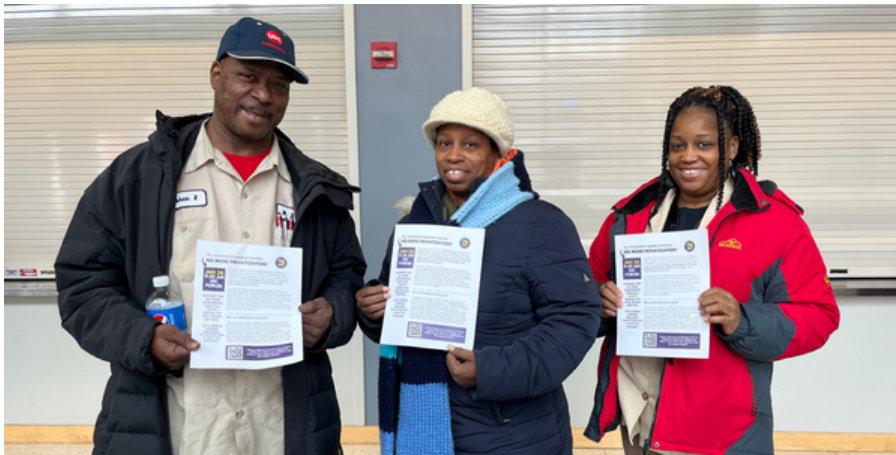
**Bargaining Preparation Progress**

Your bargaining team has been meeting regularly and working hard to review the bargaining surveys that have been submitted. Based on their initial review, the top issues that members care about are competitive pay and benefits, work/life balance, a voice on the job, clean and safe campus, training opportunities, and job security.

The bargaining survey is still open for member submissions. The survey is a tool to make sure all voices and issues are brought to the bargaining committee's attention. It's also important for UIC to see that we are strong and united in our fight for a fair contract.

Make your voice heard! Take the bargaining survey today:





## **Board of Trustees Meeting – Jan 26**

On January 26, a group of Building Service Workers attended the Board of Trustees meeting in Chicago. The Board of Trustees oversees where every cent of the University's \$7.5 billion budget goes, including investing in private companies like Aramark that put profits over people. They are also responsible for approving every union contract negotiated in the U of I system. The unelected Board has significant power without any transparency. Carmella Sanders, BSW, spoke about the threat of privatization and why the Board should improve the conditions for BSWs to address short staffing, including job security and higher wages. By standing strong and united at these meetings, we are showing the Board our power. [Read more about the Board of Trustees action.](#)

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## **Showing Solidarity**

When UICUF went on strike in late January, Local 73 members were there in solidarity with their fight. Day 3 of the strike was a campus solidarity day, and many workers from campus unions gathered during a midday rally to show management that we are all united. Local 73 steward and Senior Library Specialist Dante Williams spoke about his experiences during the 2020 strike; he was joined by Retiree Joe Iosbaker who spoke about the carelessness of the UIC administration during the pandemic. [Read more about the solidarity rally.](#)



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