



MEDIA ADVISORY

CONTACT: Jazmine Salas, jsalas@seiu73.org

ISU Grad Workers to Rally, Announce Strike Authorization Vote

Bloomington, IL – The Graduate Workers Union (GWU) at ISU will be hosting a solidarity rally and march demanding a fair contract and higher wages. Graduate Teaching Assistants, many of whom are paid so little they must regularly visit the campus food pantry, have been in contract negotiations with ISU since March and working without a contract since June. Graduate workers teach hundreds of classes for ISU, prepare and grade tests, conduct labs, and bring in millions of dollars in student tuition and research grants, yet receive some of the lowest pay for their jobs among institutions considered comparable to ISU.

The GWU is proposing a living wage based on MIT's cost of living analysis for the Bloomington-Normal area. In this round of negotiations, ISU is proposing poverty wages and has offered a paltry wage increase of \$46/month. Graduate workers have no choice but to escalate to a strike authorization vote. The GWU represents 450 graduate teaching assistants at ISU.

When: Thursday, October 12

Rally at 11:30 AM, march begins at 12:00 PM

Where: ISU Hovey Hall (201 S. School Street) on the Quad Side

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SEIU Local 73 represents more than 34,000 workers, primarily in public service and publicly funded positions in school districts, municipalities, social service agencies, and many other job classifications in Illinois and Indiana. We are dedicated to improving the lives of workers and their families.