



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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UIUC Workers Set to Strike

Champaign, IL – University of Illinois—Urbana Champaign (UIUC) Food Service and Building Service Workers will begin striking on September 23, at 7am. The last bargaining session took place on Friday, September 20 at the request of management, however, they made no new proposal. The SEIU Local 73 Bargaining Team put forth a proposal to which management had no response and chose to end negotiations early. The next bargaining session is scheduled for Monday, September 23, at 2pm.

“Our members have continually made it clear that they deserve a contract that provides a living wage,” **said Joseph Richert, SEIU Local 73 Secretary-Treasurer.** “They are fully prepared to strike for as long as it takes and fight back against the blatant intimidation and unfair labor practices management has committed.”

In the past week, UIUC management has issued notices requiring physician confirmation for any sick time taken, in direct violation of the existing collective bargaining agreement and the Illinois Education Labor Relations Act. They have suspended Civil Service Rules allowing them to assign unqualified employees to do the work of Food Service and Building Service Workers. And management has posted notices threatening workers with loss of wages and healthcare in a clear attempt to dissuade workers from their legal right to strike.

“The U of I system just approved a new budget of over \$8 Billion dollars. President Killeen got a \$400,000 bonus last year. And yet, we have been forced to go on strike or threaten to strike repeatedly for the last 11 years. UIUC appears to have money for everyone at the top while giving nothing to those of us who keep our university running,” **said Melody Decker, Chapter 119 President and Building Service Worker.**

Research by the University of Illinois Project for Middle-Class Renewal reveals that public university employees are paid 21% less than their counterparts at other state agencies. Meanwhile, U of I President Timothy Killeen is among the top-ten highest paid public university presidents with a \$1.3 Million salary for FY2024-2025.

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SEIU Local 73 represents more than 35,000 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.