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UIUC Building and Food Service Workers Approve Contract

Champaign, IL – The University of Illinois—Urbana Champaign (UIUC) Food Service and Building Service Workers, represented by SEIU Local 73, have shown remarkable perseverance by voting to approve a new three-year contract. This decision comes after a historic eight-day strike, demonstrating their unwavering commitment to their cause.

“We would have ended up with a raise of only fifty-four cents had we not gone on strike,” **said Melody Decker, Chapter 119 President and Building Service Worker.** “For every contract, we are forced to fight for fair wages. When will UIUC leadership invest in its workers the way it invests in its sports teams?”

The new three-year contract includes a \$500 signing bonus for workers and pay raises of \$1.00, \$0.90, and \$0.85. In addition, depending on demand, some Food Service Workers will no longer be laid off during the summer. Those laid off will be offered work opportunities as usual. Those not laid off will be guaranteed 40 hours a week. Dining Workers will now reach top pay in two years.

“This hard-fought victory doesn’t end here. Leadership of the \$8 billion University of Illinois system continually fails to prioritize the workers who keep the universities clean, safe, and functioning.,” **said Dian Palmer, SEIU Local 73 President.**

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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.