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WORKERS PROTEST FOR CAMPUS SAFETY AND FAIR WAGES AT CSU

Skilled Trades Teamsters Hold Statewide Protest at California State University

(California State University) Hundreds of Skilled Trades workers across the California State University system held protests on Tuesday, January 23, to call attention to the threats to student caused by years of neglect of campus facilities.

CSU has accumulated a \$2+ billion backlog of neglected repairs and maintenance work, which continues to grow by \$143 million a year.

“As CSU raises tuition on students, it fails to invest in their safety and the safety of the workers who make the University run,” said Jason Rabinowitz, Teamsters Local 2010 Secretary-Treasurer. “It is time for CSU to fulfill its promise to the people of California and provide a safe environment for students and workers.”

Inadequate funding has resulted in a backlog of system failures and facilities past their useful life, according to CSU’s own reports. At many CSU campuses, the utilities infrastructure are obsolete, dating back more than a half century and in need of upgrade or replacement. Resulting in power or water service interruptions and failures, which threaten to interrupt education services to students and impede the CSU’s ability to provide a clean and safe work environment for faculty and staff.

“We work hard in keeping the Universities running and take pride in our work,” said Hector Fernandez, Teamsters Local 2010 Director of Skilled Trades “But we are overworked and understaffed, putting us and the students in danger.”

In a recent survey, over 63 % of CSU skilled trades workers, whose job it is to maintain and repair university facilities, reported being aware of unsafe conditions or accidents due to deferred maintenance and understaffing.

“I just want what everyone wants,” said Curtis Maas, Carpenter at Chico State. “I want to be safe in the workplace and be paid a fair wage for work that I do.”

Teamsters Local 2010 is currently in wage reopener negotiations with California State University.

The Skilled Trades members of Teamsters Local 2010 are electricians, carpenters, plumbers, and other skilled trades workers.

Teamsters Local 2010 represents approximately 1100 skilled trades workers at Cal State and 1300 at the University of California as well as approximately 12,000 administrative supports workers at UC.