



Media advisory

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Thousands of UC staff, students and faculty to strike, walkout on first day of classes

On **Thursday, September 24th**, University of California students, faculty and staff will hold a coordinated strike and walkout of classes systemwide to protest how UC President Mark Yudof and the UC regents have handled reductions in state funding. The historic joint actions will occur on the first day of classes for most campuses. **Picket lines will be up as early as 7 am, and most campuses will have noontime rallies or teach-ins (check <http://www.upte.org> for details).**

A one-day unfair labor practice strike by researchers and techs represented by University Professional and Technical Employees (UPTE-CWA local 9119) will be held simultaneously with the walkout by thousands of faculty and graduate student instructors. Both the strike and walkout have the support of the University of California Students Association, the representative body of UC's 220,000 undergraduates. Other unions will also participate.

"We're striking to take a stand for public education," said Jelger Kalmijn, UPTE-CWA's systemwide president and a staff research associate at UC San Diego. "Our unfair labor practice strike is about the illegal cuts Yudof is making to the university. He is obligated to bargain with us, but instead he's taking unilateral and unwise actions. His furloughs and layoffs, proposed tuition hikes, and lack budget transparency threaten the public mission of our university," said Kalmijn.

Yudof's actions have provoked widespread outrage among staff, faculty and students. "The state's funding shortfall amounts to less than 3% of UC's budget," notes Tanya Smith, an editor at UC Berkeley and president of UPTE-CWA's Berkeley local. "Employees have presented carefully researched budget alternatives that preserve UC's missions of education and research, but Yudof refuses any real dialogue."

Instead, he advocates student fee increases, cuts to education and essential public services, along with lavish executive bonuses. "The real crisis at UC," says Carolyn Buckmaster, UPTE's San Diego president, "is one of priorities and leadership."

UPTE, an affiliate of the Communications Workers of America, represents over 12,000 employees at the ten UC campuses and Lawrence Berkeley National Lab. The researchers and techs who will be on strike work as lab assistants, computer techs, theater staff, animal care techs, sign language interpreters, museum scientists, and research associates, among other positions.

UNIVERSITY
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The September 24 statewide action is likely to be the largest strike in California this year. The combined union, faculty and graduate student walkout may also qualify as the largest work stoppage nationwide this year. (See figures according to the Bureau of Labor Statistics: <http://www.bls.gov/wsp/ws012009.htm>).

For more information:

UPTE-CWA strike updates: <http://www.upte.org>

UC faculty walkout: <http://ucfacultywalkout.com>

UC graduate student walkout: <http://www.gradstudentstoppage.com>

UC undergraduate walkout: [http://www.uca.org/board/resolutions/UC Walk Out Resolution Final.pdf](http://www.uca.org/board/resolutions/UC%20Walk%20Out%20Resolution%20Final.pdf)