



Media advisory

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UC's 2500 health care professionals ratify wage increases of 4% plus

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Over 2500 health care professionals ratified a union agreement with the University of California on October 29, which includes fair wage increases as well as new contributions to their pension plan.

“We knew UC had the money to be paying its highly-skilled health care professionals market wages,” said Wendi Felson, chief negotiator for University Professional and Technical Employees, Communications Workers of America 9119, which represents the workers. “This agreement proves it.”

“After a tough year and a half of negotiations with UC, we are happy to be able to obtain for our members a package that includes a 2% wage increase, a 2% step increase, and for many members, additional equity increases that put the total above 4% this year.”

The health care professionals unit (HX) includes job titles such as Clinical Social Workers, Clinical Lab Scientists, Pharmacists, Nuclear Medicine Technologists and Occupational Therapists, among others. Union members in the HX unit will have the opportunity in the spring to decide if they want to end the existing contract on June 30, 2011 and begin full contract bargaining, or to accept a 1.5% pension contribution in exchange for a 2% step increase and an additional 1% wage range increase retroactive to December, 2010.

“Either way, these hard-working employees will receive raises that put them closer to market rates, which helps to preserve UC’s position as the premiere teaching hospital system in California,” said Felson.

Felson adds that UC’s five medical centers are making significant profits and that the university has been offering higher benefits and bonuses for its top executives. “Workers shouldn’t be left out,” she said, “and we are confident UC will consider its health care professionals as deserving of fair market wages in 2011.”

For more information or an interview, please see <http://www.upte.org/> or contact us at the number above.