

Society of Professionals, Scientists, and Engineers

**Local 11 - University Professional and
Technical Employees (UPTE),
Communications Workers of America (CWA)
Local 9119, AFL-CIO**

SPSE

Media Advisory

For Immediate release: 1/15/14

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LLNL Skilled Trades Picket January 15, 2014; West Gate 3:30-5:30 pm

We are Lawrence Livermore National Lab's maintenance workers—full-time employees of Lawrence Livermore National Security, LLC, (LLNS) and members of UPTE-CWA Local 9119, AFL-CIO.

We are skilled craftspeople whose job it is to keep the Laboratory' infrastructure running safely and efficiently. We are now negotiating our next contract with management.

We are journeyman air conditioning mechanics, locksmiths, boiler mechanics, carpenters, electricians, heavy equipment mechanics, laborers, maintenance mechanics, painters, plumber/pipefitters, riggers, sheet metal workers, trades helpers, and welders.

We routinely work around hazards that our counterparts elsewhere never or rarely face: radioactivity, biohazards, high explosives, and contamination from beryllium, lead, depleted uranium, asbestos and heavy metals.

Since LLNL privatized in 2007, we have seen our ranks drop by approximately 50% as LLNS, the newly-formed company attempted to impress DOE and win \$ millions in management incentives by cutting, among other things, the maintenance budget, deliberately allowing the Lab's infrastructure to fall into disrepair. Management's new motto was "Run to Fail, then Maintain"

This misguided policy has led directly to several safety incidents and many more close calls. Accidents and faulty equipment affect all Lab employees and could also endanger the surrounding community.

"Running to fail" makes no business sense either; repairs are more expensive and more disruptive to Lab operations than preventive maintenance to equipment and facilities.

We are dedicated and responsible employees who take pride in being part of the history and heritage of the Laboratory. Without us, the Lab could not function. We see the Lab's accomplishments as ours too.

In recent years we have seen our wages lag behind prevailing wages in our crafts. We want our new contract to close this gap.

We also want an end to the relentless push to do more with less. We have deep pride of ownership of the equipment and facilities that we maintain. Management sometimes exploits that pride to get things done "on a shoestring". As a result, some of us are overworked.

We want a fair contract and to do our part in restoring the Lab to greatness.



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