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SENATOR KEVIN DE LEÓN
PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE EMERITUS

May 09, 2018

President Janet Napolitano

University of California - Office of the President
1111 Franklin Street, 12th Floor
Oakland, CA 94607

Dear President Napolitano,

I write to express concerns regarding the current system-wide strike by employees of the University of California. The University of California (UC) system offers Californians and the world a top-notch research and teaching institution, and I believe the UC sets the bar and continually strives to raise it for the quality, effectiveness, and impact of public higher education.

As one of the largest employers in the state, the importance of the University's success to the state's economic growth is vital. With that in mind, the wage disparities amongst racial, gender and socio-economic lines recently highlighted by the UC's own employment data is startling. The University of California is now presented with an extraordinary opportunity to come together with UC Employee representatives to ensure that systems grow and thrive together by allowing everyone to reap the benefits of the UC's success.

The University of California has an opportunity to show that it is committed to lifting workers up by not participating in an ill-advised race to the bottom. We must not capitulate to the lures of outsourcing, and reject an exploitation of our campus workers and their livelihoods – they are part of California's success, and we must support their advancement.

I will be joining the picket lines with the California Nurses Association and the University Professional and Technical Employees in solidarity with the strike of the over 25,000 members of AFSCME 3299 because it's time we recommit ourselves to raising that bar for all workers.

As university management and the bargaining team negotiates a new collective bargaining agreement, I ask the University to continue to bargain in good faith and recognize the valuable contributions campus staff have made to California students and the institution of higher education.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Kevin de León".

KEVIN DE LEÓN
Senate President Pro Tempore Emeritus
24th Senate District