



Indiana Graduate Workers Coalition
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Over 800 Grad Workers Sign Union Cards on Day One of the Union Drive

Graduate students at Indiana University are showing their support for unionization and a living wage by signing union cards at extraordinary rates. In just twenty-four hours, over 800 graduate students signed union cards.

“We are so unbelievably overwhelmed by the amount of support we are getting, especially from first-year graduate workers as well as people who went on strike two years ago,” explained Zara Anwarzai, a graduate worker in the Philosophy Department and Cognitive Science Program and the Indiana Graduate Workers Coalition’s (IGWC) Organizing Coordinator.

“We are just starting to look at who is signing up, but it seems that first-year students are signing at the highest rate. Many people came to campus aware of the IGWC victories in previous years and are ready to get involved,” Anwarzai added. “It means our union is here to stay!”

“We are getting a huge influx of organizers,” said Anne Kavalerchik, a graduate worker in Sociology and Informatics and the union’s Coordinating Officer. “On the first day, over 150 new people indicated that they want to help sign people up in their department. Grad students at IU are tired of the low pay and of having no say in our working conditions.”

IGWC kicked off its campaign with its “More Say, More Pay” rally on Thursday morning. Currently, IU pays graduate workers a minimum stipend of \$22,000 for ten-month contracts. According to the [Living Wage Calculator](#) from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT), a living wage in Bloomington, IN, for a ten-month contract is \$27,973, and the minimum for a twelve-month contract is \$33,568.

“In 2022, the faculty voted overwhelmingly to recognize the union,” explained Sam Smucker, a graduate student in the Media School. “The Administration is ignoring the faculty and ignoring

any semblance of shared governance. Is shared governance just a mirage that the Administration gives lip service to when it suits them?"

For further questions and correspondence, contact Indiana Graduate Workers Coalition media correspondent, David Garner (david.andrew.garner@gmail.com).

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