



For Immediate Public Release - AFSCME Local #613

The workers of AFSCME Local #613 (Bloomington Transit Employees) proudly support the Indiana Graduate Workers Coalition (UEW) in their right to organize, be recognized, and negotiate with the administration of Indiana University. The desire of graduate student workers to be treated with dignity and respect by university administrators is paramount to the health, well-being, and educational experience for future faculty and research associates in all academic fields. Their request for recognition has been met with strike breaking and union busting tactics that unionized workers recognize from decades of anti-union, anti-worker policies at corporations and within the political parties of the federal government. We are gravely disappointed with President Whitten, Provost Shirvastav, and Vice-Provost Pavalko in their refusal to meet and recognize these newly unionized workers. We also rebuke the official policies and e-mails released that demonize and mischaracterize the Graduate Student Workers of Indiana University. We call on the Board of Trustees to order the immediate official recognition of IGWC - UEW pursuant to the laws in the State of Indiana.

The desire to secure a living wage, better benefits, fairer fees, and health and child care are basic to the human condition. We join all other organizations that support the IGWC - UEW and stand in solidarity with our brethren (folks) in the IGWC.