

Thursday, November 10, 2022

Since our founding in 2017, the [UCLA Latino Policy and Politics Institute \(UCLA LPPI\)](#) has addressed the most critical domestic policy challenges facing Latinos and other communities of color through research, policy advocacy, community mobilization and leadership development to achieve policy reform that expands opportunity for all Americans. Our student staff—including our Graduate Student Researchers (GSRs)—have always been essential to our ability to deliver on this mission.

As an on-campus employer, UCLA LPPI wishes to honor the academic labor of all of our student staff through equitable compensation that enables students to live with dignity in a time when [the cost of public higher education is increasingly out of reach](#) and has derailed [many Latino students from pursuing their postsecondary plans](#). However we, like all campus units that hire GSRs, must follow the GSR pay scales and hiring terms that are established by the University of California and its labor partners through the contract negotiation process.

From our research, we know that [labor unions have been instrumental](#) to securing higher wages, better benefits and more dignified working conditions for Latino workers across industries. We commend UC graduate students and labor partners who have been [organizing for months](#) and tirelessly engaging in good faith negotiations with the University of California to reach a new contract agreement that is responsive to the graduate student needs and respectful of their many contributions. We now call on the University, on President Drake, and the Board of Regents to take immediate action to meet student proposals for a fair and dignified contract.

Signed in solidarity students,

Sonja Diaz,
Arturo Bustamante PhD,
Lila Burgos,
Silvia R. Gonzalez PhD,
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