

GOOD JOBS: INVEST IN OUR FUTURE

ROBERT Olson

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I am a painter at San Jose State and have worked at SJSU since 2003. After 19 years of work for the CSU I am still at the bottom of my pay range and I am struggling to make ends meet. For many years I lived in Modesto, the only place I could afford housing, and commuted three hours to work and three hours home every day—covering almost 200 miles by bike, train, and car to get to work and support the campus. Since my wife and I got married we've been able to rent a house in San Jose, but my rent now is nearly four times what my mortgage was in Modesto.

I enjoy my work at CSU but CSU leadership, and how they choose to pay us workers, makes me feel unwelcome. I score satisfactory or beyond on every performance review and yet every time I have requested a raise, I've been denied. Everyone is affected by the housing crisis and as the costs of gas, food, and other basic necessities skyrocket, my wife and I are struggling.

I used to be proud to work at SJSU, but now I'm reluctant to tell people where I work. Our shop staff of eight has been reduced to four as my coworkers leave for better-paying jobs. Our managers turn over every year. We're stressed and under-staffed as the CSU struggles to fill open roles. And all the conversation is about leadership scandals on campus and across the system instead of talking about workers who can barely get by. CSU workers need help and we need it soon.



Help CSU workers thrive.

Approve funding for CSU salary study recommendations in this year's budget.

