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## **YALE GRADUATE TEACHERS & RESEARCHERS VOTE TO UNIONIZE**

NEW HAVEN — Graduate teachers and researchers at Yale University have voted to unionize as Local 33–UNITE HERE. Today the NLRB counted the ballots from the union representation election which began on November 31, 2022 and concluded on January 6, 2023. Graduate teachers and researchers cast 2,039 votes, 1,860 in favor to 179 against, a significant victory of 91%.

“For decades our campaign has fought to improve the working conditions of graduate workers on our campus,” said Madison Rackear, a grad researcher from the Genetics Department. “We’ve been inspired by the union standard that our sibling unions Locals 34 and 35 have achieved through decades of organizing. I’m looking forward to winning a great first contract that will make graduate education at Yale more accessible to other working-class scholars.”

Workers have cited better dental and vision coverage, more accessible mental health care, guaranteed time off, protections for international grad workers, strong grievance procedures, cost of living adjustments, and increased transparency as just some of the reasons motivating the current organizing drive.

“COVID has really highlighted the precarity of our work and the need for stronger workplace protections,” said Adam Waters, a graduate teacher from the History Department. “The results of this election show that grad workers agree: our work makes Yale work and we deserve a seat at the table through our union and a contract.”

“I’ve been looking forward to this day for years,” said Ridge Liu from the Physics Department. “Grad workers need better pay, better healthcare, and real grievance procedures. Generations of grad workers have organized before us, and I’m really excited to finally win. I know our first contract will be one that future generations of grad workers will be able to build on. It’s great that the Yale administration did not engage in the same level of union-busting as they have in the past, and I hope they will bargain in good faith moving forward.”

“We’ve always stood with the grad teachers and researchers in their fight for respect and union recognition. I couldn’t be happier to welcome them into the UNITE HERE family here at Yale,” said Bob Proto, President of Yale’s service & maintenance union, Local 35–UNITE HERE. “I’m proud of the productive problem-solving relationship union workers have built with the university over the years—but we know how to fight for what we deserve too. I’m excited and hopeful to see what wins Local 33 secures in their first contract.”

Yale has seven days to file objections. If it doesn’t, the NLRB will then certify Local 33 as the graduate workers’ representative. Graduate workers at Yale have maintained one of the country’s longest continuous union representation drives against fierce opposition from the Yale Administration, including previous refusal to recognize the results of NLRB elections. If the Yale administration recognizes the results of this election, teachers and researchers from Yale’s graduate and professional programs will begin the process of negotiating their first union contract.

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