

# ALACHUA COUNTY LABOR COALITION

ORGANIZING SOCIAL & ECONOMIC JUSTICE FOR ALL!

Updated 12/6/17

## Snapshot of OPS Workers at UF:

- The University of Florida closed campus on September 8th, 11th, and 12th which left many OPS workers without pay.
  - Santa Fe College, the Alachua County School Board, and others still paid their hourly workers for these lost days.
- There are 14,171 OPS workers at the University of Florida. Of these 7,824 are hourly workers with 4,800 being hourly student workers and 3,024 non student workers. We predict that there was some \$856,062.75 lost in wages due to Hurricane Irma. We do not have an estimate on lost wages due to the Spencer event.
- On January 1st 2016 the University of Florida increased the minimum wages for all TEAMS workers to \$12 an hour. Some 4,782 OPS workers were left out from this raise.
- OPS workers are considered temporary even though many have worked for the University for years. Two workers have been at the University since the 1980s!

	OPS Hourly <u>Student</u>	OPS Hourly <u>Non Student</u>
	<b>Total</b>	<b>Total</b>
Number	4,800	3,024
Median Wage	\$9.25/hr	\$14/hr
Median Months of Service	9	15
% non white	48.8%	49.9%
% female	60.2%	56.9%
Predicted wages lost due to Irma	\$385,347.13	\$447,1063.87

## OPS Worker Survey:

- The Alachua County Labor Coalition sent out a survey to OPS workers. These workers described being forced to rely on emergency EBT, food banks, and charity to get by due to lost wages. Others talked about not being able to afford prescriptions and needed medicine.
- Some lucky workers have supervisors who allowed them to make up the hours ahead of or behind the Irma and Spencer events but complained that it was stressful and reduced preparation time for Hurricane Irma
- Many workers had to travel in on unsafe roads or risk not being able to make ends meet. One worker said “A day off from work for the hurricane meant 8 hours I wouldn't be paid. This makes paying bills and buying food more difficult - especially when living alone with no outside help. I was notified the next morning at 6am that our lab would be open (I go in at 8am) and that I should be there. I went despite flooding and downed trees so I wouldn't have yet another day of lost wages.”
- Many OPS workers described the toll it takes on them not being able to have time off. They often work while sick even in medical environments because they cannot afford to lose a paycheck. Many also talked about not being able to schedule surgeries or doctor/dentist appointments because they could not afford to miss time from work. Many more described the mental exhaustion from not being able to take a vacation while working in a high stress environment.

## Next Steps:

- Student Government senators sympathetic to this cause plan on introducing a resolution in support of OPS workers.
- We have started a dialogue with the Faculty Senate to introduce a resolution in support of OPS workers.
- The Alachua County Labor Coalition has launched a petition on change.org in support of OPS workers which has gathered 858 signatures as of 12/6/17. We plan on delivering these petitions to the administration.