



MEDIA ADVISORY

Monday, December 11, 2023

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1,000 Temple Health Employees Across Three Campuses to Picket Outside Their Hospitals on **WEDNESDAY, DEC 13TH to Urge Temple to Invest in Staff Retention and Quality Patient Care**

Nurses and Technical Specialists at Fox Chase Cancer Center Will Join Nurses at Jeanes Hospital to Picket Outside Their Facilities in North Philadelphia; Temple Outpatient Clinics Nurses and Research Nurses to Picket Outside Temple Main on Broad Street

Philadelphia, PA – 1,000 Temple Health employees across three campuses, all of them at the bargaining table now, will picket outside their hospitals at two locations on **WEDNESDAY, DEC 13TH** to urge Temple to invest in staff retention and quality patient care with enforceable safe staffing standards, protections to promote a safe workplace, and competitive wages that keep caregivers at their facilities and serving their patient communities.

“I have more than 22 years experience at the bedside, and I’m insulted by the lack of respect Temple has shown our bargaining committee and my fellow nurses,” says Melissa Faust, RN, a PACU (Post-Anesthesia Care Unit) nurse at Jeanes Hospital. “We were the heroes during COVID. Now, according to Temple’s lawyer, we’re the ‘tail that’s trying to wag the dog’ – all because we want daily safe staffing ratios and protection from workplace violence with metal detectors and more security staff. They’ve refused to speak about either, even though Temple Main nurses won both in their most recent contract.”

Temple Health likes to tell its employees across its multiple campuses: “We are ONE TEMPLE,” using the tagline, “The Best Care, Wherever You Are.” But the employees’ experiences working at Temple Health’s satellite campuses and as smaller groups within the main hospital don’t bear that out.

“I am one of the youngest nurses in our Local,” says Hannah Reimer, RN, Clinical Research Nurse in the Emergency Department at Temple University Hospital and president of the Nurses Association of Temple University, composed of Temple’s Research Nurses. “Nurses who are interested in working with me can’t afford to, because we are paid so poorly. Many of our nurses will retire in the next few years – who will do this important work?”

“During Covid, we brought cutting edge treatments to our patients,” she says. “Before Remdesivir was available, Temple patients had the opportunity to receive this medication through clinical trials. Before the vaccines were available, Temple patients were offered participation in a vaccine trial. We continue to offer cutting edge treatments for patients with stroke emergencies, ALS-Lou Gehrig’s Disease, lung

conditions, and more. Temple claims to be a research institution and to value research. How much longer will this be true if Temple isn't willing to invest in recruiting and retaining the nurses who do the work?"

"We are ONE TEMPLE" is the message shared with us by Temple Health President and CEO Michael Young, but that isn't the reality at the bedside or at the bargaining table," says longtime ICU nurse and Jeanes Nurses United President Kim Wills-O'Connell, RN. "Now, we're fighting back! We're banding together as "ONE TEMPLE" to achieve our goals for our patients and ourselves with a united force of strength and determination."

An informational picket is an event that helps raise community awareness; the caregivers attending the informational picket are either off from work that day or on a break.

INFORMATIONAL PICKET: WEDNESDAY, DEC 13, 2023

LOCATION 1:

WHO	Nurses from Jeanes Hospital and nurses and technical specialists from Fox Chase Cancer Center
WHERE	Outside the entrances to Fox Chase Cancer Center and Jeanes Hospital, Central Avenue, 7600 Central Avenue, Philadelphia, PA 19111
WHEN	Wednesday, December 13th 6:30 AM to 8:30 AM 11 AM to 1 PM RALLY WITH SPEECHES BY NURSE LEADERS, ELECTED OFFICIALS & COMMUNITY ALLIES TO BEGIN AT NOON

INFORMATIONAL PICKET: WEDNESDAY, DEC 13, 2023

LOCATION 2:

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LOCATION 2:

WHO	Temple's Outpatient Clinics nurses and Temple Main research nurses
WHERE	Outside Temple Main, 3401 N. Broad St., Philadelphia, PA 19140
WHEN	Wednesday, Dec 13th 6:30 AM to 8:30 AM

Jeanes Nurses United, Fox Chase Nurses United, Fox Chase Techs United, the Temple Faculty Practice Nurses Union, and the Nurses Association of Temple University are affiliates of PASNAP, the Pennsylvania Association of Staff Nurses and Allied Professionals, which represents nearly 10,000 frontline nurses and healthcare professionals across Pennsylvania and was founded on the belief that patients do better when critical care staff have a voice to advocate for their patients and themselves.