

1). In the past five years have you had to work a second job while working at the University? If yes, why?

Yes, because the amount I made a month couldn't pay for all my basic needs. I had to use 1 entire paycheck and 1/4 of the next paycheck just to pay my rent. I was living in an efficiency apartment on my own. I couldn't even afford a one bedroom apartment. I was always told that you should never spend more than 1/3 your salary on your rent. That is impossible to do living in the Twin Cities based on what we as techs make.

2). While working here have you needed to borrow money or use a credit card to make ends meet?

Yes, I always have to use a credit card for emergency purposes because I can't save enough money to cover things. Emergencies related to health care or car repair.

3). If you made a livable wage, what would you be able to do that you can't do now? (In 2003 the Jobs Now Coalition estimated that the hourly wage needed to meet monthly basic needs for a family consisting of one adult with 2 children was \$19.46)

I could finally get a new or used car. I could buy a house. I could save some money to help purchase either of these items or just save for emergencies. I could travel. I could afford to have a family.

4). At your present salary, what do you go without?

I could finally get a new or used car. I now drive a 12 year old car. I only have liability coverage on it because I can't afford comprehensive insurance. At my current salary, I can't afford to buy a new or used car and make payments and pay for comprehensive car insurance. I am not able to do extracurricular activities such as go to plays, concerts, travel out of the country, take classes outside of the U of M, or visit my family as often as I'd like