



June 22, 2023

Dear UW community members:

Thank you for your May 31, 2023, letter regarding the University's partnership with Starbucks. I appreciate your attention to this issue and the opportunity to address your concerns.

The University of Washington is deeply committed to protecting the rights of employees, including the right to organize. We work to uphold that commitment with UW staff, which includes staff working at all four Starbucks licensed stores on the Seattle campus, who are represented by the Washington Federation of State Employees and SEIU 925.

More broadly, we look closely at current and potential partners' overall commitment to social responsibility. The University seeks to partner with organizations that meet specific standards and have a high-level commitment to their workers worldwide.

Our partnership with Starbucks is based around shared values, including scholarships and programs benefiting students, advancing our Race & Equity Initiative, addressing housing and food insecurity, and providing support for veterans. The partnership with Starbucks has, to date, provided support to a range of UW students and programs, including:

- Student scholarships through the Office of Minority Affairs & Diversity
- Investments in programs including the Career & Internship Center, Husky Leadership Initiative, the Office of Student and Veteran Life, and the Real Dawgs Read program for students in K-12 schools
- Support for efforts to address food and housing insecurity, including ongoing support for the food pantries on all three UW campuses
- Funding for programs and events including Earth Day, UW Sustainability Fest and the Office of First-year Programs' Dawg Daze

The University will take your feedback into consideration in our discussions with Starbucks regarding our partnership.

I value your commitment to this necessary and complex work and interest in upholding good working conditions. If you wish to pursue further action, UW Procurement [maintains an intake form for](#) complaints about UW suppliers.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Ana Mari Cauce".

Ana Mari Cauce
President
Professor of Psychology