

Dear President Young,

My name is Molly Cheney and I work in the International and English Language Programs at your university. I just wanted to take a minute to introduce myself and tell you a little bit about what I do.

I moved from Albuquerque in 2000 to attend University of Washington as an undergraduate and graduated five years later with two separate degrees. I received one in Spanish and one in Psychology. I received a wonderful education and enjoyed my experience at the UW. I spent some time abroad and then returned to the gorgeous UW to continue my studies. I received a Master's Degree in TESOL (Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages) in 2010. I worked in 2009-2010 as a TA for UW. After I graduated, I started working full-time for the UW IELP.

Sounds like a dream situation doesn't it? Not so quick. My job with the UW IELP has very little stability and I don't know from one quarter to the next if I might have work. In order to afford to live, I work a second job at a restaurant for about 25 hours a week. I did that all through school to pay my tuition so I could get an education. In hopes that one day I could be a teacher and stop being a waitress. Boy was I wrong.

I work full-time teaching and let me tell you that does not entail 40 hours it is more than that, probably 50-55 hours a week and it would be even more if I didn't have the second job. Yet, I get paid very, very little to teach students whom one day might matriculate bringing great minds and out of state tuition to UW.

We aren't asking for the moon. I think that is inexcusable that you allow your own university to treat alumni that you educated in such a disrespectful manner. I just want to be able to fix my car, pay my rent, and put a little money away so maybe one day I can send my kids to your fine institution. Thank you for your time.

Molly Cheney