A Plate for all: Decreasing Food Insecurity for Students in College of Agriculture and Nat. Resources

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Of the 7.8 billion people on the planet, an estimated 805 million—or one in nine—suffered from chronic hunger between 2012 and 2014, according to the United Nations.

Of the 318.9 million people in the United States, an estimated 49.1 million—or one in seven—were food insecure during 2014, according to the United States Department of Agriculture.
Food Insecurity

• Food Insecurity: According to USDA, food insecurity is defined as a lack of consistent access to enough food for an active healthy lifestyle

• Issue: Many students pay their way through college with a mix of scholarships, loans, grants and assistance from family – if family assistance if available.

• Issue: For students with little or no family assistance, cutting back on food is a reality
Empty plate Issue

• #23,200,000 results- food insecurity and college students
• Literature
  • https://hope4college.com/ - The Hope Center for College, Community and Justice
  • https://www.urban.org/research/publication/assessing-food-insecurity-campus - Assessing Food Insecurity on Campus

Discrepancies in Estimates on Food Insecurity

• New research finds that while food insecurity among college students is a serious problem, studies on the issue may not provide accurate estimates of its magnitude.
• According to Feeding America's 2014 Hunger in America report, roughly 10% of its 46.5 million adult clients are college students.

• What can be done, What we did
  • Snacks for success and Give Green and meal passes
Hidden Figures

- Paying for expenses associated with college
  - Tuition and fees – rise in costs, more loan based, limited savings
  - Books, clickers, course packs, jump drives, printing
  - Personal items
  - Cell phone bill – data to use online services
  - Rent/lease
  - Lack of budgeting/knowledge of budgeting
- Transfer/off campus most vulnerable
- Under-represented populations
What we did

• Snacks for Success!
• Give Green!
Snacks for Success

- Occurs during the week of final exams
- Started with “Care Packages”
- All departments provided supplemental funds
- Designated Snack Lounges
- Faculty/Advisors/Donors provide snack & food items
  - Fruit, Chips, Pizza, Sandwiches, Water
- Promotion and marketing
  - Signs, emails and resource information to students
School of Packaging

SNACKS for SUCCESS

Fuel up for Exams!
December 5th - 6th
December 9th - 13th

Look for our themed lunches to include:
PEANUT BUTTER & JELLY
PASTA & SALAD
POPCORN BAR
COFFEE BAR
PIZZA
CHILI

many more healthy snack options!

Sponsored by:

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Snacks for Success

Over 830 lbs of food donated or purchased!!
Advisors are on the front line

“I have started asking all students who come in for advising intro/intake questions, like “Are you eating okay?” or “Are you getting enough sleep?”

Just last week, two students told me they are not getting enough to eat and the MSU Food Bank hours are not conducive to their schedules”
Another Advisor comment

“We always have snacks available for them in our office, but snacks do not constitute a meal. Research suggests food insecurity is a barrier to academic success. Providing meal passes, would be a great way for us to show holistic support for our students. We are not only concerned about their academics, we care about them as human beings”
“This is such a silent problem. I was not keenly aware of food insecurity among students until we had the “Snacks for Success” program last spring. I heard one of my majors tell another student that almost everything he ate that week was fruit and granola bars he picked up from the table – he had no money left at the end of the term to buy groceries.

“The first morning of the program, a student came to the table for food and told me “You just saved my final exam grade! I didn’t have anything left in the apartment.”
Good luck on your finals!

Stay on top of school this winter.

Did you know the MSU Food Bank distributes food every Wednesday from 5:30 - 7:30 p.m. at the Olin Heath Center Cafeteria?

www.foodbank.msu.edu/

A special thank you to:

Michigan Apple Comittee
MSU AgBioResearch
MSU Extension
MSU Beef Farm

College of Agriculture & Natural resources
www.cat.msu.edu/
Take it up a notch: Give Green Initiative

- Went to Development with the issue
- Provide Meal passes to needy students
- Initial goal was $5000
- $27,000 raised
- Department advisors/designated personnel have passes
- #50 passes per department
- Distribution Qualtrics tracking
- Any residential dining facility
Give Green

• Ready to make a difference? Support the Zero Hunger: CANR Student Success Fund on Dec. 3

https://givingday.msu.edu/projects/agriculture-and-natural-resources
Points to consider – more research is needed – universal survey
Make sure funds are appropriately placed
Work to change policies – SNAP/Bridge programs, funding HE
Hear from the students
Collaboration among institutions

Questions