

Student Engagement at UC Santa Barbara

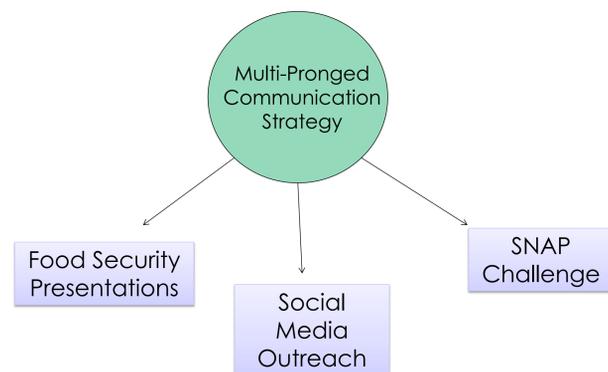
Bryn Daniel, UC Global Food Initiative Fellowship

Project Goals

Initial goals set in Fall 2016:

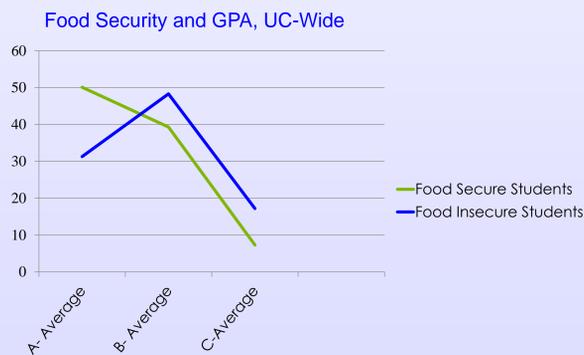
- Raise awareness among staff, faculty, and students on campus of the Student Food Access and Security data
- Make sure staff and faculty on campus know how to consistently refer food insecure students to resources
- Maintain two way communication between the student body and GFI leadership
- Build and maintain coalitions between various food efforts on campus

Communication and Outreach



Food Security Presentations

During Fall quarter, I created a standard presentation for the Food Access and Security Data. I have given the presentation to over 15 staff, faculty, and student groups throughout the year.



Sample graphic from the presentation

Key Stakeholders Reached

- Chancellor's Campus Sustainability Committee
- Academic Advising Network
- Academic Business Officer's Group
- College of Letters and Science Peer Mentors
- Transfer Student Center staff
- ECOalition

SNAP Challenge

I organized and conducted a SNAP Challenge for faculty and staff during Winter quarter.

Participation

- 18 different academic departments
- 30 individuals

Outcomes

- 85.7% of participants reported discussing the challenge with colleagues
- 14.3% of participants shared about the challenge on social media

"One of the interesting things that came up via a discussion with a colleague, was that food preparation would be difficult because we have invested a lot of money in culinary items over time... Also, you are ultimately driven to cheaper, processed foods when you have less money to purchase food."

Social Media Outreach

Throughout the year, I worked with the Food Security Communications Team on the following projects:

- Newly launched food.ucsb.edu website featuring food resources, partners, and opportunities at UCSB
- UC Global Food Initiative at UCSB Facebook Page: Starting from scratch in Fall, the Facebook page now has over 180 likes
- Food Stories videos highlighting personal experiences and identifies with food and food security at UCSB

Events

Food for Freedom Fair

Winter 2017: A fair in Anisq'oyo' Park, Isla Vista, featuring food distribution by the AS Food Bank, activities and information tables by 25 food, social justice, and cultural student and community organizations, and speeches and performances by local and student activists and artists.

Goals

- Start meaningful conversations around student food access
- Give visibility to student communities disproportionately affected by food insecurity
- Build connections between food security efforts
- Connect students in need to food security resources
- Highlight student performers and activists

Impact

- 500+ students reached, increasing engagement with food security conversations and resources
- Creation of the Basic Needs Coalition



Left: student Abraham Lizama performing spoken word poetry about food insecurity. Right: student Unique Vance speaking about intersectional veganism

Community Dinner with the Food Security Coalition

Spring 2017: a healthy, locally sourced meal open to all to celebrate this year's food security work and engage with future food security efforts. Featuring information on GFI, the campus Food Security Action Plan, and the Basic Needs Coalition. Participants engaged in small group conversations prompted by conversation cards, and then shared their most memorable thought to the whole group at the end of the meal.

Goals

- Reflect on food security work this year and start meaningful conversations about work going forward
- Raise awareness of the campus Food Security Action Plan
- Get more students engaged with the Food Security Coalition

Outcomes

- 40+ students and community members attended
- 3 new students registered for CHESC
- Multiple students expressed interest in applying for UCSB Sustainability internships

"What's your favorite food memory of the 2016-2017 year?"

"What barriers does your community face in accessing healthy foods?"

"What's your definition of a sustainable diet?"

"What are some stigmas around food insecurity at UCSB? What can we do to address those stigmas?"

Prospective GFI Fellows Workshop

Spring 2017: a workshop for students thinking about applying for GFI fellowships, featuring presentations by past GFI fellows, background information on GFI, and activities to guide project ideas and applications.

Goals

- Make sure GFI Fellowship applicants have good background information on GFI and are aware of current food efforts at UCSB
- Help applicants come up with a project idea for their fellowship that is achievable, fits into the goals of GFI, and is valuable to our campus

Outcomes

- Attendees participated in stakeholder brainstorming and mapping, project goal setting, and preparing their applications
- Best practices guide shared with other campuses

Coalition Building

Basic Needs Coalition

Following the Food for Freedom Fair, I created The Basic Needs Coalition, connecting student researchers and interns working on student food and housing security. Including student leaders from IV Tenant's Union, AS Food Bank Committee, Black Student Union, UC Sustain Our Students, and Student Activist Network. Together, we discussed food and housing security issues on campus, and set the following priorities for student involvement and action:

Goal	Status/Accomplishments
Incorporate student feedback into Dining Commons operations	Met with the director of Residential Dining Services, along with policy research intern Nicholas Turton and representatives from AS Senate to discuss recommendations
Facilitate a stronger connection between Isla Vista locally-owned businesses and food security work on campus	Met with general manager of the IV Food Co-op to discuss needs and priorities
Advocate for affordable student housing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Working with and supporting the Santa Barbara Student Housing Cooperative • Met with the Community Housing Office and Isla Vista Tenant's Union to support cohesive housing security efforts
Advocate for community kitchen space	On the lookout for possible spaces



The Basic Needs Coalition has been institutionalized under Student Activist Network's Direct Action Committee, which will continue advocating for student food and housing security in the 2018-2019 year.

I created best practices guides for the SNAP Challenge, Event Planning, and the Prospective GFI Fellows Workshop, which are available for use by future GFI ambassadors.

Acknowledgements

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