

UC IRVINE and The Global Food Initiative

Goals

Our goals were divided into two: research and implementation of that research through community outreach. The projects expanded this year were the UCI Garden Project and Food Recovery Project. UCOP's Global Food Initiative is largely research focused and so, here at UCI, our aims were to expand the community outreach aspects of the program. These included the Ambassador's job, social media presence, and work with the Student Outreach and Retention Center and the Sustainability Center.

Development of UCI Food Access and Basic Needs Website

A large responsibility of the Ambassador under this year's GFI was the development of a Food and Basic Needs Website modeled off of those UC Davis and UC Berkley. This will be the hub and solid face of GFI on UCI's campus as its goal is to provide food access beyond what SOAR has established. The goal of this project is coherence for the community and establishing one go-to information source. Current fellow complete the website framework and created a vast asset library. The next fellow will launch and update the site

Additional Ambassador Projects

- Tested out how successful a UCI Food Action Instagram/Facebook would be
- Photographed and posted events
- Contacted other UCI groups working with food to support them and integrate GFI branding
- Created marketing materials for any food events on campus that were infused with GFI branding
- Work with other Ambassadors

UCI Garden Project

UCI has an expansive on-campus community six garden system used by undergraduates, graduate students, and the surrounding Irvine/Orange County Community. Found working group collaboration with the **Campus as a Living Lab Internship Program** in which 10 interns worked with or in the gardens. Their projects range from using the gardens as experimentation platforms for different sustainability techniques such as the efficacy of composting with worms to researching the best possible way to use the food created in the garden (specifically the ASUCI Garden in Arroyo Vista) as a campus food source.

Ambassador Role:

- Created a connection with the Garden Project Supervisor and the Garden Project Fellows Emanuel Preciado and Emma Petterson to support them
- Interviewed many of the CLL Interns for write-ups to either be posted on our food access online outlets or to be sent to UCOP
- Photographed the gardens for promotional pictures
- Attended and marketed their outreach events such as Workshop Mondays and community potlucks.



UCI Food Recovery Project

A research project investigating how individuals can address Food Insecurity. As part of this effort, UC completed a Student Food Access and Security Study. The study found that 19% of UC students who responded to the survey had very low food security and 23% of student respondents had low food security across the UC system as a whole.

Development of the UCI **Food Access and Security Model**

Founding of and collaboration with the branch of ASUCI's Office of the Internal VP called the **Food Access and Security Team**. Over the course of this year, all GFI programs developed a close relationship with this team as part of our outreach work. This is a partnership heavy project and also included close work with **UCI Hospitality and Dining and UCI Housing** for programs like the "Taste the Season"

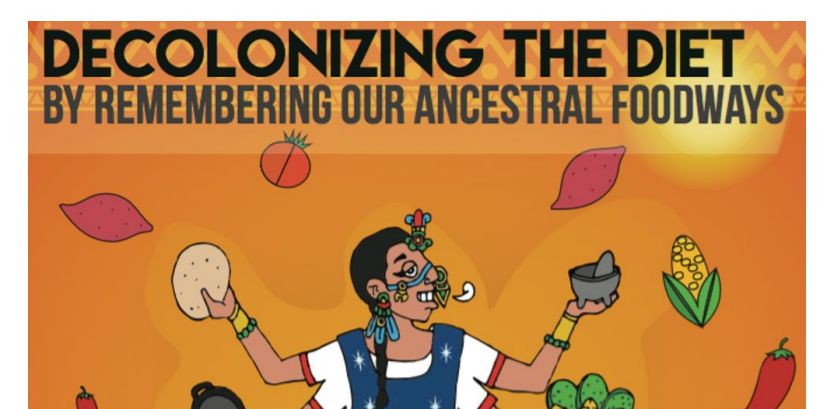
Ambassador Role:

- Publicity through access to food action channels
- Support in anyway including planning and setup for events , photography, and write ups afterwards



Partnership with SOAR

The Student Outreach and Retention Center has been integral to fighting food insecurity and as an outreach hub for the UCI Community. Working was done under Food Access and Security Coordinator Andrea Gutierrez in the form of workshops held to educate students such as "Cultivating Solutions: Food Access & Nutrition Workshop", their cooking class series, the educational "Decolonize the Diet" workshop, and working with **UCI Health Center** for the "Smart Eaters Life Skills Series". They also hold several food accessibility events such as free breakfast, the **Food Pantry**, and most notably The Free Monthly Farmer's Market.



The Farmer's Market has been shown to be the most successful in terms of number of students and marketing GFI sponsored food services such as the Food Pantry.

