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# Understanding Hunger on Campus [Project Proposal]

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## PSU Integrated Cluster (IC) Project Funding Process & Proposal Form

**Project Proposal Submittal Process:** All IC projects requesting funding will require the completion and submittal of three (3) forms:

- ☒ **Project Proposal Form – project scope & outcomes** (*included in this document*)
- ☒ **Project Guidelines Form – reflective document outlining desirable IC project attributes**
- ☒ **Project Budget Form – Excel spreadsheet to facilitate budget planning**

### **Instructions for Submitting Project Proposals:**

- ✓ Download the 3 forms to your computer
- ✓ Complete the forms and save them; including the title of your project in the file name
- ✓ Forward the 3 files via email to the IC Project Manager, Ross Humer  
[rhumer@plymouth.edu](mailto:rhumer@plymouth.edu)
- ✓ Project Proposal will be logged & forwarded to the appropriate IC Guide Team

If not reviewed in advance of the submission, it is important to discuss the Project with the IC Guides to review, refine, and rework (if necessary) to obtain funding approval.

**Project Funding Review Process:** All proposed projects will be reviewed by the Cluster Guide team. Depending on the level of funding amounts being requested, the proposal request will follow the process outlined as follows:

- **Level 1:** Any project with a proposed budget of less than or equal to \$1,000 can be approved by the Cluster without additional review
- **Level 2:** Any project with a proposed budget of \$1,000 but less than \$5,000 can be approved by the IC Project Review Team, which is made up of representatives from each of the 7 Clusters (*see release time exception directly below*)
- **Level 3:** Any project with a proposed budget of \$5,000 or greater **or** requires faculty release time, must be first endorsed by the IC Project Review Team and submitted to the Academic Deans for review and approval

The project funding approvals are limited to one academic year; projects which require additional funding in subsequent years will need to be resubmitted annually for review and approval.

**Deliverables:** At the conclusion of the academic year, a deliverable to the Integrated Cluster Proposal Review Team and Academic Deans is required in order for the project director/coordinator, artist, or author and collaborator(s) to be eligible for future funding. This reporting requirement may be met by numerous means which will be identified as this process matures. It is anticipated that awardees will present their works before a wide public gathering to be scheduled during the upcoming Academic Year.

**Instructions for the PSU Integrated Cluster Project Proposal Form:** Please complete all of the elements of the following form in the spaces provided before saving and then submitting the document.

## **PSU Integrated Cluster Project Proposal Form**

**Title:** Understanding Hunger on Campus

**Project Leadership:** Co-Managers: Casey Krafton, Rachelle Lyons, Megan O’Gara

**Project Description:** The Center for Business and Community Partnerships, in collaboration with the staff from the PSU Student Support Foundation (SSF), and Rachelle Lyons, Research Assistant Professor of Environmental Science and Policy, have come together to propose a cluster project to explore the state of food insecurity on PSU’s campus. To better understand hunger on campus, we seek to implement a food insecurity survey. In collaboration with a first year seminar, this project will encompass: survey development, implementation, analysis, and recommendations to address specific food insecurity issues on our campus.

National data, provided by the USDA Economic Research Service, states that nationally 15.8 million households were food insecure at some time during 2015. According to the National Student Campaign Against Hunger and Homelessness’ Hunger on Campus report, "local studies performed at individual colleges and university systems in recent years have documented extensive food insecurity among college students at those institutions." While there are no national current statistics on campus hunger, many smaller scale studies support the notion that hunger on campus is a significant issue. According to the study:

- 59 percent of students at Western Oregon University had experienced food insecurity at some point over the span of a year.
- A 2015 study by the Wisconsin HOPE Lab surveyed students at 10 Wisconsin colleges and universities found that 61 percent were food insecure at some point during the school year
- A 2016 University of California study found that 32 percent of students were experiencing high or very high food insecurity.

The New Hampshire Food Bank shares that about 1 in 9 individuals in our state are food insecure. National and state research on food insecurity underscores the need for further research on hunger among college students. A lack of access to a reliable source of nutritious food can have a detrimental effect a student’s academic and personal success. When having to worry about a basic need such as food, students’ ability to thrive during their time at Plymouth State is compromised. By conducting this research, we will be able to have an informed response to addressing a challenge that has anecdotally been identified as a need at PSU.

Our team will create a survey modeled after a UNH campus food insecurity survey and USDA Economic Research Service food insecurity measurement tools in order to data that is relevant to national studies and specific the student experience at PSU. The survey will be distributed to students during the 3 & 4 week of classes in the 2017 fall semester. Once the survey is completed, our research team will analyze the data, and share results with first year seminar

students enrolled in Rachele Lyons' FYS courses. FYS students will review the survey results in conjunction with relevant course content and develop recommendations for next steps. This work will guide Student Support Foundation in strategic actions to serve the PSU student body and lay the foundation for future projects to improve food security which we hope to continue through continued cluster activity.

This research has the potential to be expanded beyond the PSU campus to other Student Support Foundations across the country, gaining a deeper understanding of the student experience. This work will also help donors to SSF take informed action to maximize the impact of the programs they support.

### **Project Goals and Outcomes:**

#### **1. Project Goals – Briefly identify and describe the objectives of this project**

Our team will craft a survey that can add to national hunger data collection efforts, and best captures the student experience at PSU. Using USDA Economic Research service food insecurity measurement tools and a UNH campus food insecurity survey as models we will build a survey that is both relevant to national studies and informative of the PSU specific student experience. Such survey will be submitted for approval to the Internal Review Board. Our working group will create a multi-faceted approach to distribution of this survey through official campus communication and collaboration with campus partners. The data will be collected and analyzed by the research team including student research assistants. Results will be shared with two sections of First Year Seminar students. These students will review the survey results and provide recommendations for the Student Support Foundation to put the data into action. A final report will be written by the project team.

Please note that we anticipate several actionable recommendations to come from this applied research.

#### **2. Student Learning Outcomes – Outline the expected student learning outcomes**

Students participating in this project will explore the wick problem of hunger as a global, national and local concern. They will:

- Explore and evaluate a variety information sources to build information literacy skill and relevant content knowledge
- Interact with an audience of peers and off campus partners building perspective taking and systems thinking experience
- Engage in interdisciplinary research and work with primary information source to develop evidence based action plan.

This project will foster awareness of hunger and food waste while providing an opportunity for students to take action and implement group identified solutions.

### **Rationale and Impact:**

Considering the questions below, please write your project rationale and impact statement.

Include how this project will further the Mission and Vision of PSU with respect to 1) fostering collaboration across disciplines; 2) addressing a relevant societal issue, and 3) establishing relationships with community partners, external institutions, companies, non-profits, schools, government agencies, etc. and 4). Making an impact

How does this proposed project advance the Integrated Cluster mission and vision? How does this project facilitate high impact teaching and learning, cross disciplinary collaboration, student engagement and partnership involvement, and real world problem exploration? What are the anticipated impacts of this project?

Is this project an extension of work already in progress, or an entirely new endeavor? Does it integrate with areas that team leaders are already teaching or is it an opportunity to delve into unfamiliar content or a bit of both?

**Project Rationale and Impact Statement:**

1) fostering collaboration across disciplines;

The project is applicable to many disciplines including early childhood studies, social work, environmental sustainability and environmental planning. By connecting with SSF, CBCP and FYS and interacting with external partners such as NH Food Bank, Morgridge Foundation, Sodexo, and federal programs such as SNAP, this project demands collaboration among a diverse pool of stakeholders.

2) addressing a relevant societal issue

There is plentiful anecdotal evidence that hunger is a significant concern to the PSU student population. Through C.A.R.E program referrals, student conduct administration, advising, and relationships with faculty members, our working group recognizes the hunger issue facing our institution. Advisors for the Student Support Foundation note that the challenge of connecting students in need with existing support services. We suspect this stems from visibility and marketing of the on-campus food pantry, as well as students' concern of the stigma surrounding utilizing a food pantry. Food insecurity is a relevant, substantial, and wide-reaching issue for our campus community and the surrounding area. By collecting hard data on the status of hunger and the effectiveness of current campus hunger intervention programs, this work will serve to quantify the need and identify best practices to reducing student food insecurity.

3) establishing relationships with community partners, external institutions, companies, non-profits, schools, government agencies, etc.

By using USDA Economic Research service tools, we allow for comparability with national statistics on food security and hunger. We will lay the foundation for deeper collaboration and strengthened ties among established partners. The momentum of this effort can be leveraged to establish new partnerships and expanded collaborations; thereby amplifying the impact of the research.

The research will be shared with other SSF clubs across the country, and will inform other Foundations with similar student bodies on how to best implement food intervention programs at their institutions. Because PSU is already home to the first SSF Food Pantry, our research and recommendations could be very impactful to SSF clubs just beginning their food intervention programs.

#### 4). Making an impact

This project will provide a rich learning experience for two sections of FYS helping the students explore a difficult issue in context and engage in trans-disciplinary work. The results of this research will contribute to the development of an on campus food support program that is sensitive to the barriers that prevent student participation and provide support that aligns with documented need. Addressing students' basic needs will allow them to focus on their academic and personal goals throughout their college careers and contribute to their success at Plymouth State University. Each student who participates in this project, whether a volunteer or recipient will be introduced to the broader issue of hunger and food insecurity.

This project will allow SSF to receive authentic feedback on the status of the students they are (and are not) serving at the food pantry. The recommendations from FYS will allow SSF to advance and recalculate our efforts to best fit the needs of our students.

## **Project Team**

**PSU Project Participants** (essential core team participants including faculty and staff)

<b>Name</b>	<b>Position/ Title</b>	<b>Project Role</b>	<b>Discipline/ Specialty</b>	<b>Email</b>
Rachelle Lyons	Research Assistant Professor of Environmental Science and Policy	Faculty Collaborator and Co-researcher	Human Dimensions of Natural Resource Management	<a href="mailto:rllyons@plymouth.edu">rllyons@plymouth.edu</a>
Casey Krafton	Community Program Coordinator	Co-researcher	Community Initiatives	<a href="mailto:cakrafton@plymouth.edu">cakrafton@plymouth.edu</a>
Megan O’Gara	Resident Director	Co-researcher	Residence Life and Advising	<a href="mailto:Maogara1@plymouth.edu">Maogara1@plymouth.edu</a>

**Non-PSU Project Participants** (stakeholders; partners; academic institution; etc.)

<b>Name</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Project Role</b>	<b>Discipline/ Specialty</b>	<b>Email</b>
Carrie Morgridge and John Farnam	Student Support Foundation Network	Donors and major advisors of Student Support Foundation	Philanthropy and giving, PSU alumni	<a href="mailto:Carrie.a.morgridge@gmail.com">Carrie.a.morgridge@gmail.com</a> <a href="mailto:John.c.farnam@gmail.com">John.c.farnam@gmail.com</a>
Alana Davidson	UNH	Provided UNH survey tool	Food Insecurity	<a href="mailto:Arq236@wildcats.unh.edu">Arq236@wildcats.unh.edu</a>

**Student Participant Profile** (Identify the student population/s to be engaged in the project. Identify if this has been or is planned to be incorporated into curricula)

Class/ Student Organization/ Individuals	Role in Project	Academic Level (Undergraduate or Graduate)	Academic Discipline	Total Student Population
First Year Seminar (2 sections)	Data collection, synthesis and development of recommendations	Undergraduate	Multidisciplinary	Approx. 48 FYS students, as part of FYS coursework
Student Support Foundation	Survey promotion	Undergraduate	Multidisciplinary	8

### **IRB (Institutional Review Board) Compliance**

IRB Compliance: <http://www.plymouth.edu/office/institutional-review-board/>

- This project DOES NOT require IRB compliance
- This project DOES require IRB compliance (*complete below*)

IRB Approval Status: Select an Option We have initiated the IRB approval process, and the researchers are undergoing training

IRB Approval Date: Click here to enter a date.

Any funding approvals of IRB-required projects are contingent on obtaining IRB approval.

### **Project Management: Timeline and Milestones**

Identify the timeline for the project including start, completion, and major project milestones. A closing report will be required as a part of the project funding process.

**Project Start Date:** 6/1/2017

**Project Complete Date:** 1/15/2018

<b>Project Milestone</b>	<b>Milestone Description</b>	<b>Target Completion Date</b>
<b>Survey Development</b>	Create survey to capture information about food insecurity on campus and seek IRB approval.	8/1/2017
<b>Survey Implementation</b>	The survey will be distributed to students at start of the semester.	9/15/2017
<b>Analysis</b>	The data collected will be analyzed.	10/1/2017
<b>Results and Recommendations</b>	Students will be given the survey results from which they will develop recommendations.	11/15/2017
<b>Present Recommendations</b>	Students will share their recommendations developed in class with a panel of stakeholders.	12/1/2017
<b>Strategize Implementation</b>	The stakeholders will review the recommendations to initiate next steps of phase two of this projects.	12/15/17
<b>Finalize Project Report</b>	Final report written and disseminated.	1/15/18

Please identify any pre-project education or training for students, faculty, and staff that would be helpful for your project team to have in advance to begin work on a strong footing (e.g., skill training, concepts), and identify any training and education that you are willing to help provide during the preparatory period for the project team before team work formally begins.

Student Education/ Training Requirements:

Qualtrics survey Software will be provide by Rachelle Lyons.