

The State University of New York presents the

# INAUGURAL FOOD INSECURITY CONFERENCE

Monroe Community College  
June 2019



## FOOD INSECURITY TASK FORCE YEAR IN REVIEW



***Task Force Co-Chairs:***

Dr. Anne Kress, President of Monroe Community College and  
Randi Shubin Dresner, President and CEO Island Harvest

***Student Life Co-Chairs:***

Dr. Jeffrey Putman, Vice President for Academic & Student Affairs, Downstate Medical Center, and  
Mr. Brendan Caluneo Student Assembly and Hudson Valley Community College

***Engagement Co-Chairs:***

Sharon Masrour, Associate Professor, Nassau Community College,  
Amy Rosen-Brand, Associate Director of Student Accessibility Services, Buffalo State College

***Resources Co-Chairs:***

Mr. Richard Sigal, Co-Director of Stony Brook University Food Pantry

***Pantries and Partnerships Co-Chairs:***

Ms. Susan Lintner, Director of Agency and Program Services, Regional Food Bank of Northeastern New York

*Prepared by Dr. John L. Graham, Associate Provost for Student Affairs*



Dr. Anne Kress  
Monroe Community  
College

Randi Shubin Dresner  
Island Harvest

Sue Lintner  
Regional Food

Dr. Julie White  
Onondaga Community  
College

Dr. Rebecca Seguin  
Cornell University

Dr. Lloyd Holmes  
Monroe Community  
College

Richard Sigal  
Stony Brook University

Dr. Anne Hopkins-Gross  
SUNY Cobleskill

Joseph Watson  
Columbia Green  
Community College

Joe Falco  
Rockland Community  
College

Megan Sheeley  
SUNY Ulster

Usama Shaikh  
SUNY Old Westbury

Robyn King  
Schenectady County  
Community College

Dr. Penny Jennings  
Rockland Community  
College

Jilly Stevens  
City Harvest

Luke Rumsey  
University at Albany

Steve Finn  
University at  
Pennsylvania/Leanpath



## WHERE WE BEGAN

In 2014, at the request of a Trustee, SUNY collected data on what campuses were doing to prevent and respond to student hunger. Of those who responded, 15 stated they had an on-campus food pantry, 3 campuses planned to open on-campus pantries, and 6 campuses worked closely with local food pantries to address student hunger.

On January 24, 2017, the SUNY Board of Trustees Student Life Committee met to discuss the issue of student hunger across SUNY. Representatives from SUNY Oswego, Stony Brook University, and the University at Albany shared their experiences with addressing student hunger, and how they established programs to meet the need. The Committee provided feedback for System to evaluate networks, investigate best practices, obtain information about what pantries and services exist across SUNY, and to evaluate food service vendor contracts and other innovative options to alleviate food insecurity.

In preparation for the SUNY Board of Trustees Student Life Committee meeting on March 22, 2017, a survey was undertaken to update information on campus efforts to address student hunger, and follow-up outreach was conducted in November, 2017. Nearly all campuses responded to the initial inquiry. More than half of the SUNY campuses have a food pantry, are in the process of opening a food pantry, or are interested in opening a food pantry. Of those who responded, 32 campuses report that they have an on-campus food pantry, 13 campuses partner with or refer students to a local food pantry, 1 campus is planning to open a food pantry, and 6 additional campuses are interested in opening a food pantry.

## WHERE WE ARE NOW

As illustrated above, many campuses across SUNY provide food relief to their campus communities. Accessibility to the food pantries varies. Most of the food pantries are located on the physical campus, while several pantries are hosted off campus. A few campuses have mobile food pantries, meaning an unaffiliated group brings food items to campus. Numerous campuses have direct partnerships with their local community for students to access resources such as food banks. A few campuses are in the process of starting food pantries on campus. Campus pantries may be open several times a semester, several times a week, or 24/7. Some campus food pantries extend beyond supporting food insecure students to be inclusive of faculty and staff.

Approximately one-third of the SUNY campuses address student hunger through a wide range of stigma free food access networks in the campus community.



## “WE ARE NOT DONE YET”

“Acknowledging the problem and having a food pantry is only the beginning. To ensure qualified students participate in the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), SUNY partnered with the New York State Office of Temporary and Disability to raise awareness of student eligibility for food benefits. According to a recent report by the Government Accountability Office, of the 3.3 million students who were potentially eligible for SNAP in 2016, less than half reported participating. [2] Working together with Hunger Solutions New York, OTDA is currently dispatching staff to SUNY campuses to help students learn more about the federal food assistance program.”

- Chancellor, Kristina M. Johnson, PhD



“The issue of food insecurity and its impact on our students is a prominent one that New York State is solving for, as it is a priority for Governor Cuomo, the SUNY Board of Trustees, and my leadership team. Already, SUNY’s Food Insecurity Task Force has done incredible work to offset the effects of food insecurity—all 64 of our campuses are providing students with food or the necessary resources to combat hunger, keeping in alignment with Governor Cuomo’s “No Student Goes Hungry Program.” There is more work to be done, and I know the members of our task force are up to the challenge, as they have already dedicated their time to collaborate with statewide partners and campus leadership. I thank everyone for coming up with creative, holistic solutions to help our students live a more sustainable life and thrive inside and outside of the classroom.”

- Chancellor, Kristina M. Johnson, PhD

Brendan Caluneo  
SUNY Student Assembly

Natasha Pernicka  
Food Pantries for  
Capital District

Ben Fabian  
University at Buffalo

Cathy Legacy  
The College at Brockport

Deborah Dibble  
SUNY Fredonia

Matt Kiechle  
Tompkins Cortland  
Community College

Nuriyah Clark  
ECC

Nina Tamrowski  
Faculty Council of  
Community Colleges/  
Onondaga Community  
College

Amy Rosen-Brand  
Buffalo State College

Courtney Bish  
SUNY Canton

Teresa Daddis  
Finger Lakes Community  
College

Dr. Jeffrey Putman  
SUNY Downstate Medical  
Center

Dr. Alisha Gaines  
Cornell University

Dr. Michele Carpentier  
SUNY Plattsburgh

Valerie Fasanello  
Nassau Community  
College

Sharon Masrouf  
Nassau Community  
College

Dr. Helen Rice  
Nassau Community  
College



Dr. Dianna Smith  
SUNY New Paltz

Katherine Trombley  
Genesee Community  
College

Yasmin Fisher  
SUNY Adirondack  
Community College

Randi Shubin-Dresner  
Island Harvest

Lisa Irving  
Office of Temporary and  
Disability Assistance

Sally D'Alessandro  
University at Albany

Edward Gabeloff  
University at Albany

Sherri Darrow  
University at Buffalo

Larry Mannolini  
SUNY DELHI

Dr. John Graham  
SUNY System  
Administration

Nazely Kurkjian  
SUNY System  
Administration

Johanna Duncan-Poitier  
SUNY System  
Administration

Emily Brew  
SUNY System  
Administration

Michele Forte  
SUNY System  
Administration

Joe Storch, ESQ.  
SUNY System  
Administration

Lisa McKay  
SUNY System  
Administration

# GOAL of the TASK FORCE

*Trustee Joseph Belluck raised  
the question about student food  
insecurity and SUNY responded!*

**SUNY Board of Trustees Student Life Committee Co-Chairs:**  
Eunice Lewin, and Michael Braun, President of the Student Assembly



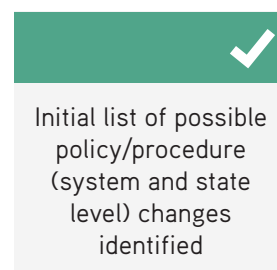
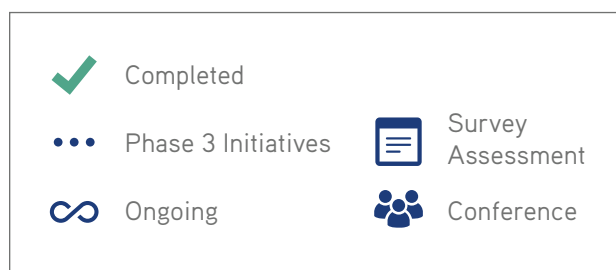
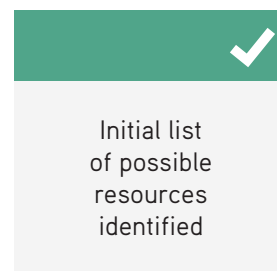
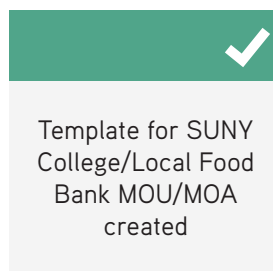
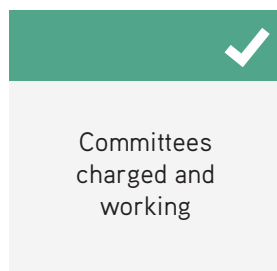
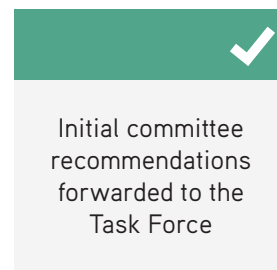
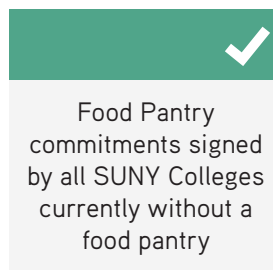
## PHASE 1 First 6 Months

## PHA First

Process  
Indicators

Performance  
Indicators

Process  
Indicators





**The Food Insecurity Task Force**, empanelled by SUNY Chancellor Kristina Johnson, PhD, is comprised of a broad spectrum of interested constituencies, including students, staff, faculty, auxiliary food service providers and community and philanthropic organizations. The goal of the Task Force is to ***study the issue of food insecurity on college campuses and recommend the necessary changes and best practices to alleviate this serious issue.*** The Task Force will present a preliminary and final report to the Student Life Committee of the Board of Trustees.

SE 2  
Year

PHASE 3  
First 18-24 Months

Performance  
Indicators

Process  
Indicators

Performance  
Indicators



Food Pantries  
or Partnerships  
at all SUNY  
Campuses



System-wide  
Assessment  
of Hunger and  
Food Insecurity  
Completed



Task Force submits  
report to the SUNY  
Board of Trustees

SEP 2019



Promising practices  
catalogued,  
communicated, and  
disseminated



Task Force  
drafts report

JUL-AUG '19



Reporting on Student  
Basic Needs added  
to campus-level data  
collected by SUNY

SEP 2019



Inaugural SUNY  
Conference on  
Student Basic  
Needs



Task Force proposes  
policy and procedure  
changes to System  
based on report

JUL-AUG '19



Second SUNY  
Conference on  
Student Basic  
Needs

2020

Angela Wright  
SUNY System  
Administration

Teresa Foster  
SUNY System  
Administration

Dr. Leah Wentworth  
SUNY System  
Administration

Maureen Maillard  
SUNY System  
Administration

Linda Bopp  
Hunger Solutions

Dr. Gwen Kay  
University Faculty Senate/  
SUNY Oswego

Paul Kutey  
SUNY System  
Administration

Richard Caldicott  
SUNY Student Assembly

Vivian Nieves  
City Harvest

Brandon Aldous  
Empire State College

Sharon Huard  
Upstate Medical

Christopher Adams  
SUNY Suffolk

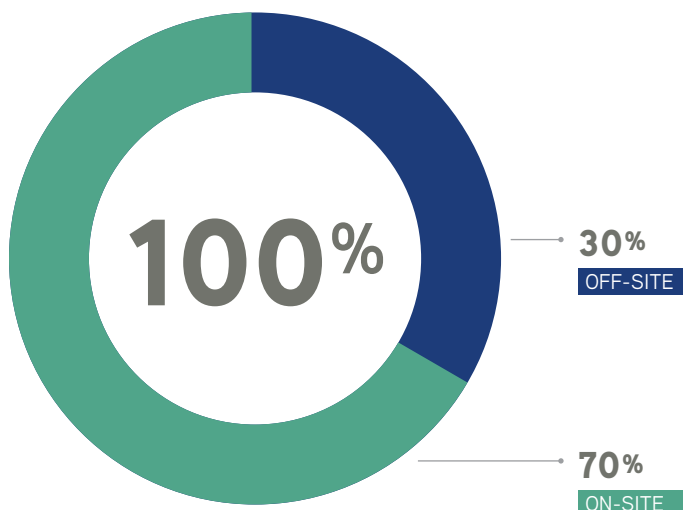
Theresa Wheeler  
SUNY Purchase

Beverly Burka  
Columbia Greene CCC

# CAMPUS SURVEY RESULTS

# GOAL MET!

Our goal of **100%**  
has been met ahead of schedule



**Governor Cuomo** has announced that **100%** of all New York State public colleges will have a food pantry or stigma-free food access for students in need by the end of the fall semester.

## STATE OPERATED CAMPUSES

- University at Albany\*
- Alfred State\*
- Alfred University\*
- Binghamton University\*
- The College at Brockport
- Buffalo State College\*
- SUNY Buffalo\*
- SUNY Canton\*
- SUNY Cobleskill
- Cornell University\*
- SUNY Cortland
- SUNY Delhi
- SUNY Downstate
- Empire State College
- SUNY ESF
- Farmingdale State College
- SUNY Fredonia
- Geneseo\*
- Maritime College
- SUNY Morrisville
- SUNY New Paltz\*
- Old Westbury
- SUNY Oneonta\*
- College of Optometry
- SUNY Oswego\*
- SUNY Plattsburgh\*
- SUNY Potsdam
- Purchase College\*
- Stony Brook University\*
- SUNY Poly
- Upstate Medical University\*

## COMMUNITY COLLEGES

- SUNY Adirondack
- SUNY Broome CC\*
- Cayuga CC
- Clinton CC\*
- Columbia Greene CC
- Corning CC
- Dutchess CC\*
- Erie CC
- FIT
- Finger Lakes CC\*
- Fulton-Montgomery\*
- Genesee\*
- Herkimer County CC
- Hudson Valley
- Jamestown CC
- SUNY Jefferson
- Mohawk Valley CC
- Monroe CC\*
- SUNY Nassau\*
- Niagara County CC
- North Country
- Onondaga CC\*
- SUNY Orange
- SUNY Rockland\*
- SUNY Schenectady
- Suffolk County CC\*
- SUNY Sullivan
- Tompkins Cortland
- SUNY Ulster
- SUNY Westchester\*

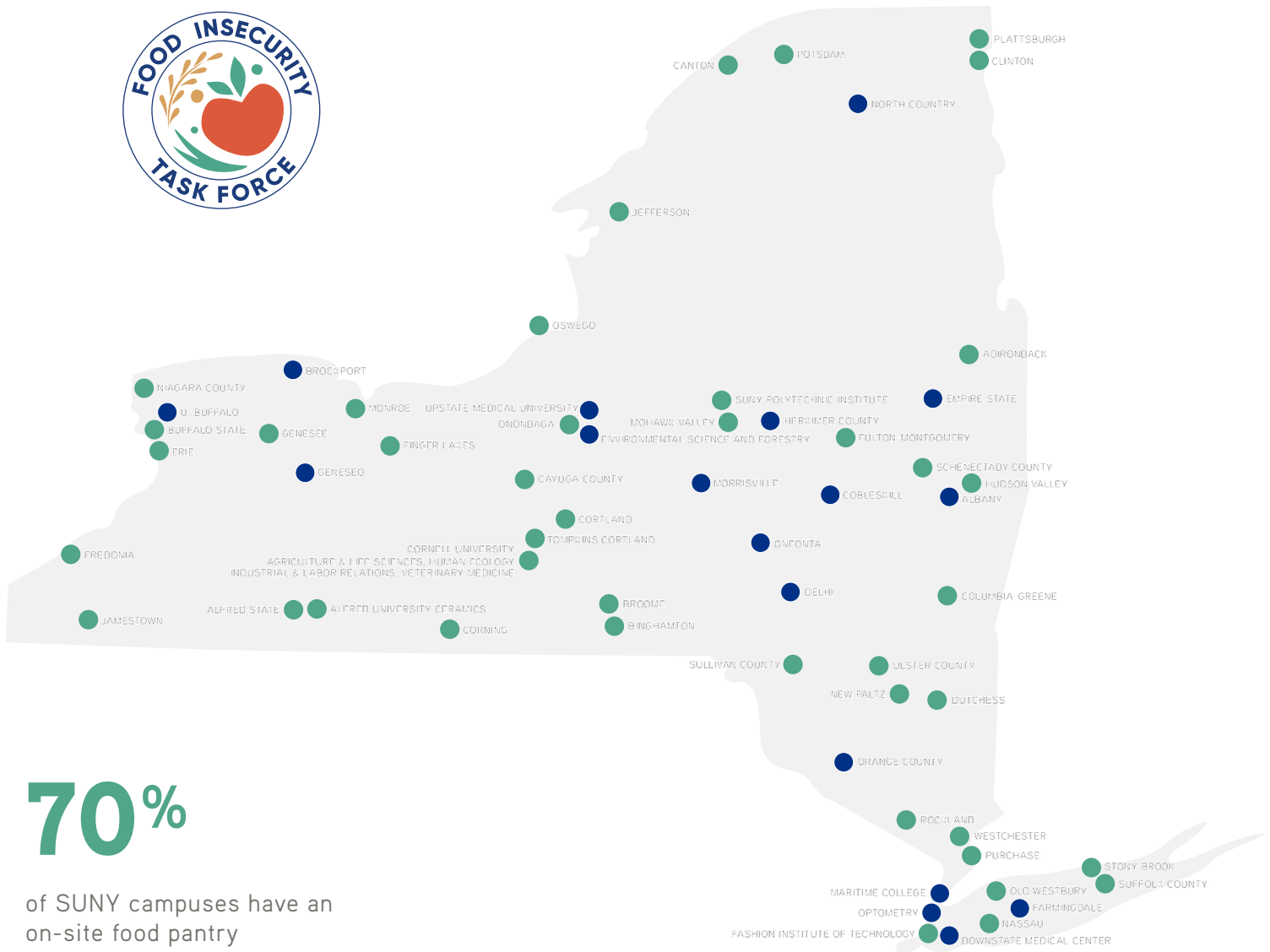
## SUNY Chancellor

### Kristina M. Johnson

said, "Food insecurity can affect anyone, including the students enrolled in our campuses. Under the Governor's leadership and with incredible support from all 64 SUNY campuses and partnerships across the state, we are quickly changing not only the conversation about hunger on our campuses, but how we support our students in critical need. Together, we are providing needed nutrition, ending the stigma around food insecurity, and helping ensure no student is forced to drop out because of limited access to the healthy food they need."

*\*Other Interventions in place:*

- SNAP
- Civic Organizations
- Community Based Food Banks
- Emergency Food Assistance





# STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIPS

## DELHI DELIVERS: ONE MEAL AT A TIME

### SUNY DELHI'S EFFORTS TO COMBAT FOOD INSECURITY

With the announcement by SUNY to launch the Food Insecurity Task Force, SUNY Delhi quickly began to redouble its efforts to ensure students do not go hungry on our campus. Being a student ready college and making sure all resources for success were in place, a cross sectional campus committee came together to tackle this issue.

**Larry Mannolini**, Director of the Center for Student Leadership & Engagement, serves as chair of this committee. The inaugural committee representatives are from the departments of Health & Counseling, the O'Connor Center for Community Engagement, the College's Auxiliary (College Association at Delhi, Inc., a.k.a. - CADI) and academic department.



### MOVING FROM FOOD BANK PARTNERSHIP TO ON CAMPUS FOOD PANTRY



For the past several years, SUNY Delhi has been collaborating with the Village of Delhi Food Pantry operated by Delaware Opportunities, Inc. Through a variety of creative efforts and various donation drives on campus, the college community has support much needed food to area residents, our students and residents of the Greater Delhi Communities.

One of SUNY Delhi's best practices is to have a food drive competition between units at the college to see who can bring in the most food. The unit who wins is awarded a coffee and donut reception at a time that best fits the groups schedules. During the fall of 2018, college employees brought in close to 1,000 pounds of food. These donation efforts are

supplemented with seventeen drop-off locations across campus. When food needs were not being met, faculty and staff would provide information and support to students about this community resource.

When the Food Insecurity Task Force was announced, we were prepared to become even more innovative in our programs and activities to meet the needs of students with food insecurities.

Since 2003, the College has dedicated a space in the Farrell Student & Community Center for a used-clothing store. All proceeds were directed to student scholarships. Yet, during the past few years, there became a need to re-brand the purpose of Regalia to increase the college's efforts in being a student ready campus. Recognizing that many students struggle to make ends meet, a decision was made to focus on gently used professional and career clothing. For many students, the idea of an extra expense for career or business wear to be ready for a job interview or internship was just another hurdle to jump over. By focusing our efforts, space was now available to add some shelving for an on campus food pantry! In collaboration with our Facilities department in securing unused shelving, a food pantry was now another added resource for our inclusive student population. Yet, now the committee had the challenge of making this space a welcoming and safe area to have students get their needs met. Intentional planning of space layout occurred so students in need of food were not center attraction within the Regalia space. Another variable that helped minimize the stigma that some may associate with food insecurity is the fact that students could be shopping in Regalia for more than one reason. Some for food but others are just in there to see what new career clothing donations have arrived.



### FOOD COLLECTION & FUNDING EFFORTS

As of this newsletter, we are tapping into the end of the academic year where some students may have good non-perishable food items they do not wish to keep or take home. Therefore, we have collaborated with our Residence Life office to have food collection boxes in each of our campus residence halls. From there we will be able to stock our food pantry for students who will be working on our campus over the summer and extra food can be donated to the Delhi Food Pantry in the village.

Each year CADI is extremely generous in creating an annual Community Service Challenge. Collaborating with our

O'Connor Center for Community Engagement and Student Senate, if students collectively conduct a total of 1,000 hours of community service in the month of April, CADI will donate \$5,000 on behalf of Student Senate to be awarded to area charitable causes. Student Senate selects the organizations and amounts from the \$5,000 to these various agencies or causes. This year, the Student Senate felt strongly that they wanted to support the new on campus food pantry. We are happy to report that \$1,000 of the money, be directed to buying food and food pantry supplies for the space.

Finally, we are exploring opportunities to get faculty and staff with our efforts to be a student ready college both in and out of the classroom. Beginning fall 2019, a method to allow for faculty and staff to make monetary donations to increase support for the food insecurity issue will be established.

## **PARTNERSHIP WITH SWIPE OUT HUNGER FOR BONUS MEAL DONATION PROGRAM**



After bolstering our new on campus Food Pantry in Regalia, we knew we could do yet even more. Members of the committee began exploring the idea of creating a way for students to be able to request a needed meal in our main campus dining hall. Investigation led to an organization called Swipe Out Hunger. Founded at UCLA in 2010, Swipe Out Hunger has partnered with over 62 campuses across 26 states to combat hunger on college campuses in a unique but yet surprisingly simple way.

The committee began initial discussions and meetings with Marissa Schnitman, the Director of Programs at Swipe Out Hunger. She provided us with lots of advice, guidance and a “brand kit” with logos, fonts, colors, and graphics that can be downloaded and used for flyers and social media promotion. Next, we worked with CADI, our auxiliary, to come up with a way to get the project off the ground. The concept is simple: We have setup a method online for students wishing to donate up to 50% of their bonus meals into a “pool” of

available meals that can be requested. Students with food insecurity can go online and anonymously request meals for dining hall usage (in groups of three meals) and the meal plan administrator in our auxiliary services simply places the meals on the students card and they use it for those meals. This process is very discreet. We have a process in place that if an individual student requests more than nine meals, that student will be looped and connected to other campus resources, e.g., Associate Dean of Students or Counseling Services, to see if the student might need additional forms of assistance.(i.e. SNAP benefits). This practice is designed to work in the central dining hall so students would have the best chance of obtaining a well-balanced meal.

What makes this program even easier to get started is that CADI has agreed to front load an advance at the beginning of the program, against anticipated donations. This way there will be meals available for student use at the beginning of the fall 2019 semester. Donated bonus meals will roll over from the fall to spring semester, but cannot be rolled over at the end of a spring semester to the following fall for tax reasons.

This practice is easily reproducible for other campuses. Granted, each campus has its differences, but at the core, it is about creating partnerships and collaborating with others in order to serve as a college that is student ready!

## **ASSESSING THE PROGRESS**

Certainly, any new program needs to be monitored and assessed to ensure it continues to meet the needs of the students. For the Regalia food pantry, we have seen an increase in demand for personal hygiene, toiletry and laundry products. Beginning in the fall, 2019 semester, we will begin to track our inventory, specifically focusing on the food items that are in most demand. Data will be kept on the number of students using the pantry, times of usage, as well as other typical data points.

For the meal swipe program we will be tracking data points including: the number of meals donated; the number of meals requested on a monthly basis and what those students have for a meal plan on campus; the number of donated meals used; and the number of referrals made for additional assistance.



*Together we can  
Swipe out SUNY Student Hunger.*

# STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIPS

## SWIPE OUT HUNGER



**Swipe Out Hunger** is a national nonprofit committed to ending college student hunger. Recognized for its entrepreneurial nature, Swipe Out Hunger has been named an Obama White House Champion For Change and its founder, Rachel Sumekh, was named to Forbes' 30 Under 30 list. From its beginnings as a grassroots movement at UCLA in 2010, Swipe Out Hunger has since served 1.6 million nourishing meals across 28 states and more than 75 campuses. In 2017, Swipe Out Hunger authored a trailblazing piece of California legislation, the Hunger-Free Campus bill, that has allocated more than \$20 million to support public colleges and universities in the state. The state of New Jersey replicated the Hunger-Free Campus bill, which was signed in May 2019 by Governor Phil Murphy.

The organization provides campuses with financially and logistically effective programs that leverage existing resources on campus and in the community in the following ways:

- **Expanded Access to Food:** The organization's flagship program is "The Swipe Drive," where students donate their extra meal plan swipes to their peers who face food insecurity so everyone can enjoy warm, nourishing meals from the campus dining hall. At some campuses, donations from the drive can also be allocated to help stock the campus food pantry.
- **Support for Campus Leaders:** Swipe Out Hunger's dedicated staff works directly with the advocates on the ground to ensure that they are apprised of best practices to launch a Swipe Out Hunger program, including building infrastructure to better support students. The organization works with both campus administrators and students to provide education, coaching, and leadership opportunities. By engaging students, Swipe Out Hunger is able to create grassroots, student-driven programs. By engaging the administration, Swipe Out Hunger is able to create sustainable, permanent programs.
- **Increased Awareness:** Despite increased attention to basic needs insecurities in higher education, many still do not understand the nature of these issues or just how prevalent they are on college campuses— and furthermore, that there are solutions in place to solve them. Swipe Out Hunger serves as a voice of student hunger to the public, increases awareness among key audiences, and works to fight the stigma associated with student hunger through advocacy and campaigns.

Swipe Out Hunger is experienced in working in partnerships with university systems, like SUNY, as the organization has worked with both the University of California's nine campuses and many of the California State University's 23 campuses to effectively scale meal assistance programs. Swipe Out Hunger's ongoing support, from starting a program to sustaining its impact on campus, enables these programs to be responsive to the campus culture and students' needs at each institution. In addition, Swipe Out Hunger has recently worked with SUNY-affiliated schools to launch anti-hunger programs, including Cornell University and SUNY Delhi.

### HOW SWIPE OUT HUNGER WORKS

1. Students donate extra meal swipes
2. Donated dollars move into "Swipe" fund
3. "Swipe" fund is used toward:



Dining Hall Credits



Campus Food Pantry



Following SUNY's success in launching campus pantries across every site in the system, its leadership has enthusiastically reached out to partner with Swipe Out Hunger to strengthen solutions to student food security in the 2019-2020 school year. The Swipe Drive program can take many different forms, as seen in the following case studies:

## CORNELL UNIVERSITY

- In-house dining management
- Each semester, there is a donation period where students can stop by booths at select locations to donate one bonus meal to the Swipe Out Hunger fund.
- Students experiencing food insecurity can request swipes by filling out a confidential Bonus Meal Distribution Form, hosted on the Dean of Students' website.
- Metrics: In the 2019 pilot, 400 swipes were donated.

## ITHACA COLLEGE

- Sodexo dining management
- At the beginning of each semester, students with meal plans can stop by tables in the Campus Center or fill out a Google doc to donate one guest meal to the swipe bank, run by Financial Services.
- Students who are facing food insecurity can email Financial Services to request meal swipes which are loaded onto the campus IDs of students who are approved.
- Metrics: In the 2018-2019 school year, 1,678 swipes were donated.

## SAN JOSE STATE

- Chartwells dining management
- Throughout the year students can stop by the Commons or fill out an online form to donate up to five meals to a pool, managed by SJSU Cares. Each donated meal is matched by Dining.
- Students experiencing food insecurity can fill out a form hosted through SJSU Cares to request meal swipes that are added to their student ID.
- The 2019 pilot is underway.



As SUNY and Swipe Out Hunger move forward with their partnership, campus leaders across the system will gain access to toolkits, webinars, 1:1 customer service, convenings, and evaluation support provided by Swipe Out Hunger's headquarters. Swipe Out Hunger and SUNY are working steadfastly to roll out this exciting collaboration in the coming months.



# STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIPS

## SWIPE OUT HUNGER

**STUDENT HUNGER IS REAL.  
WE CAN HELP END IT.**



This year, **1 in 3 college students** will go hungry.  
Because traditional programs aren't meeting their needs,  
we're taking action.

**Regalia**  
is open  
Stop in for your  
Professional Clothing  
Food Pantry and  
Toiletry Needs



**SWIPE IT FORWARD**  
is SUNY Delhi's program to help food insecurity on our campus.

**How to Donate:** Students can donate up to 50% of their Bonus Meals on Bronco Connect.

**How to Request Meals:** Students feeling food insecure can request up to 3 meals at a time, 9 maximum on Bronco Connect, to be used at MacDonald Dining Center.

### Food Pantry

Our food pantry is open to anyone to get the items and supplies they need.

### Regalia

Get all of your professional clothing needs.



**SWIPE  
IT FORWARD**



**Don't let your fellow  
student go hungry!**

**Make a donation for  
the students who are  
on campus during  
the summer!**



# RACHEL SUMEKH



Rachel Sumekh is the CEO and Founder of Swipe Out Hunger. The organization was founded in 2010 by a few friends at UCLA and under her leadership, it has grown onto 75 universities, serving over 1.6 million meals to date. Swipe Out Hunger's innovative approach allows students to donate their meal credits to support food insecure peers.

The organization has written legislation leading to \$20+ million to end hunger on campus and is widely considered to be the leading nonprofit in addressing hunger amongst college students. Rachel's entrepreneurship has been recognized by The Obama White House, The New York Times and landed her on Forbes' 2017 30 Under 30 list. Rachel Sumekh has given dozens of keynote talks including at the United Nations. Learn more at [swipehunger.org/about](http://swipehunger.org/about)

# MARISSA SCHNITMAN



Marissa is the Director of Programs at Swipe Out Hunger, where she oversees campus partnerships, engagement, and evaluation. Prior to joining the Swipe Out Hunger team, she spent two years at LIFT-LA, where she focused on program design and quality assurance. Marissa's commitment to advancing food security stems from having a family in the restaurant business and becoming aware of the food-related inequalities in the LA community at a young age. Marissa is a fourth generation Los Angeleno and a graduate from Wesleyan University, where she received a BA in Sociology and a civic engagement certificate.

*"We are inspired by the hunger task force at SUNY Delhi for establishing a Swipe Out Hunger program, ensuring food insecure students have access to warm, nourishing dining hall meals."*

- Rachel Sumekh





# STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIPS

## SINGLE STOP

In 2007 when Single Stop was founded as a non-profit, people thought very differently about the role of colleges in the lives of low-income students. We celebrated those students' acceptance into college; but did not yet have the data to understand the many barriers to graduation that still exist once they arrive on campus. Today, we recognize that many students are challenged to meet their most basic needs. Beyond struggling to fund their education, low income students also endure food insecurity, housing instability, and homelessness at a higher rate than other students. In fact, in a 2017 survey of college students by the Wisconsin Hope Lab, 56% of students reported being food insecure and 35% were housing insecure or homeless. Additionally, many students lack adequate health care, child care, and transportation to and from school. To do well in school, students need food, shelter, and to have their basic needs met.

At Single Stop, we partner with colleges to provide a one-stop shop to connect students to benefits and resources to improve college persistence and graduation rates. Our holistic model facilitates the creation of a support network that combines our groundbreaking technology and programming with community resources to provide comprehensive services for students in need. Using our technology, colleges are able to serve students quickly and effectively, mitigate future financial emergencies, and increase the likelihood of program completion. The services and resources accessed by students serve as a springboard to towards long-term financial security and prosperity.

Education is the best indicator for economic mobility yet less than 40% of first-time students will graduate in six years. For colleges interested in implementing programs to help students overcome barriers towards graduation, Single Stop

is a powerful tool to screen students for benefits eligibility as well as a partner to provide training and support to college staff. Recently, Metis Associates evaluated the Single Stop program at the Community College of Philadelphia. The study followed students from Fall 2014 through Fall 2017 and found that students who utilized Single Stop services were more successful in college than their peers who did not utilize the organization's services. First-time college students who utilized Single Stop services were 9.6 percentage points more likely to stay enrolled or have graduated by the end of Spring 2017 than their peers who did not utilize Single Stop and had degree-bearing credit pass rates that were 5.6 percentage points higher. Graduation rates were 6 percentage points higher, too.

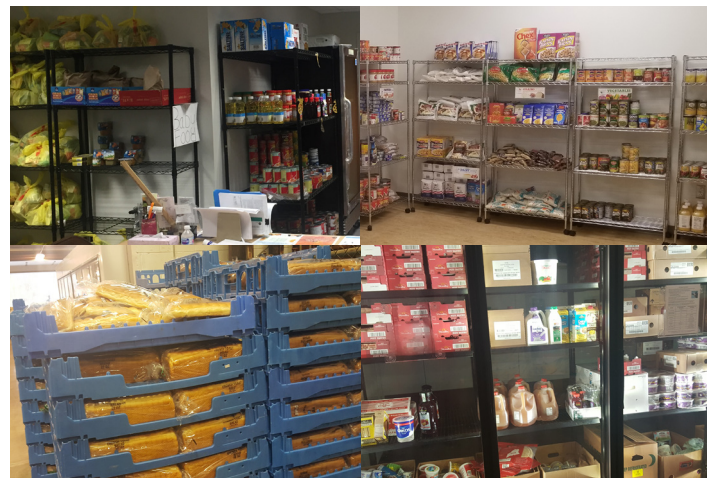
Since Single Stop began partnering with colleges in 2009, we've connected approximately 270,000 students to benefits and services valued over \$548 million. Single Stop harnesses the most effective anti-poverty tools and enables students to complete their education, obtain good jobs, and achieve financial self-sufficiency. In just three years of partnership, our site at Monroe Community College has assessed over 700 students, connecting them to vital resources like transportation assistance, child care subsidies, rental assistance and free tax preparation services. With over 100 sites in 10 states, we are able to leverage best practices from all over the country to provide colleges with the knowledge and innovation necessary to reach today's students.

Find more information about our program at:  
<https://singlestopusa.org/education/>.



## SUNY/CUNY STUDENT AFFAIRS SUMMIT: STUDENT FOOD INSECURITY

In June 2018, SUNY Vice Presidents for Students Affairs at state-operated campuses and community colleges met with CUNY administrative counterparts and staff to discuss ways to improve statewide efforts to address student hunger. Best and high impacts practices were discussed including partnering with local food banks and other related interventions. The goal is to develop a comprehensive two-system compendium that address food and related insecurity for all students in the state of New York.



# JOI BASS SMITH



Joi Bass Smith is Regional Director at Single Stop, a national non-profit dedicated to connecting low income families to benefits, resources, and supports to provide upward mobility and break the cycle of poverty.

Studying Psychology at the University of Illinois at Chicago prepared her for the many post-college jobs she's had including magazine creator and editor, training specialist at a management

consulting firm, fundraiser for grassroots campaigns, and community organizer for a national political campaign. As Regional Director at Single Stop, she is able to utilize all the skills from her previous careers to help create a pathway out of poverty for thousands of students and their families.

Joi enjoys reading mystery novels, going to brunch with friends, and listening to 90's R&B. A decade after moving to Brooklyn from Chicago, she is proud to finally be able to call herself a New Yorker.



# DANA TRAMBOLI



Dana M. Trimboli is the Senior Director for Affairs at John Jay College of Criminal Justice, CUNY. Our model of Wellness & Resources (developed around 2014) incorporates the ideas of providing a common vision of holistic wellness across areas with an integrated response to student need. We aim to provide seamless, coordinated programmatic efforts through shared resources. The model includes Health Services, Counseling,

Accessibility Services, the John Jay Food Bank (including our signature breakfast and lunch comfort station), Single Stop and Emergency Funding program (including a metro card program and grants thanks to the generosity of the Petrie Foundation, as well as private donors). Our Single Stop partnership allows us to connect students with more long term solutions to address food and housing insecurity, as well as wrap around services such as a tax prep, legal support and financial counseling. Our work is rooted theoretically in Maslow's model of self-actualization which allows us to see food and housing insecurity as a barrier to student success and graduation. We continuously assess student need with the support of CUNY leadership in this area and follow the best practices of researchers to create innovative solutions to this growing national crisis.



At **Single Stop**, we can help you overcome economic barriers so you can continue with your education and move toward economic mobility

Get screened for benefits and learn about local resources at [ccp.edu/singlestop](http://ccp.edu/singlestop)



# STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIPS

## WEST SIDE CAMPAIGN AGAINST HUNGER

### DIGNITY COMMUNITY & CHOICE FOR ALL!

West Side Campaign Against Hunger (WSCAH)—one of the largest and most successful food pantries in New York City—is at the forefront of alleviating hunger by ensuring all New Yorkers have access, with dignity, to a choice of healthy food and supportive services. Last year WSCAH distributed over 1.7 million pounds of food—one-third of which was fresh fruits and vegetables—to more than 21,000 individuals via our supermarket-style food pantry and Mobile Market. In addition to filling the need for emergency food for hungry families, WSCAH also provides a wide array of social services to bring families closer to self-sustainability. Last year we enrolled 586 families in SNAP, 357 people in health insurance, referred 453 individuals to GED or ESL courses, and helped 196 individuals get jobs. With our food pantry, Mobile Market, social services, and Culinary Pathways Program, West Side Campaign Against Hunger does more than feed the hungry—we work to address the root causes of hunger and help to improve the health and wellbeing of our community.

Delivering 1.7 million pounds of food seems daunting, but it really comes down to three key words:

### DIGNITY

- WSCAH believes that each and every customer should choose what is best for their family. This means customers shop in our store for the best, most healthy products available. This year over 40% of our food will be fresh, healthy, delicious produce. Additionally,
- customers should be able to choose from an array of social services that help families maintain food security.
- People are hungry, for food, but also to maintain their dignity.
- All should be treated with respect. All should be able to get the food necessary to maintain healthy lives, and all should be engaged in change making.

### COMMUNITY

- WSCAH believes this work does not happen in isolation - it occurs via collaboration. We have 21,000 customers, 1,000 volunteers, 2,000 donors, and dozens of program partners. We are a web of change makers supporting each other.

### CHOICE

- WSCAH believes that a real choice is made when options allow for optimal health.
- A choice of sodium laden ramen noodles or sugar laden breakfast cereals is actually pushing a choice between fighting food insecurity and fighting chronic disease and obesity.
- This is no choice! Especially on campus where students need to properly fuel their brains so they can better focus on schoolwork and be more healthy well-rounded students overall.
- It is time to create win-win choices by ensuring all pantries are not stocked with ultra processed, high fat, high sugar, high sodium products.





# CHEF GREG SILVERMAN



West Side Campaign Against Hunger's Executive Director, Chef Greg Silverman, is a dynamic chef, restaurateur and longtime leader in the anti-hunger movement. Greg has worked in the food and hunger space for over 20 years. He previously served as the National Director of Program Partnerships for Share Our Strength and its No Kid Hungry Campaign where amongst much food access work he led the national growth of the Cooking Matters nutrition education platform across all 50 states. Greg has also worked in London as a nutrition education specialist for the city government, a food consultant for public sector organizations, and as a successful chef and owner of multiple restaurants in Ithaca, NY. He also spent time as a U.S. Peace Corps volunteer in Mali. Greg has an MSc in Food and Nutrition Policy from the City University of London. He loves spending his waking hours cycling the streets of NYC, cooking food with family and friends, volunteering as a Board Member of Farm Africa and #Givehealthy, and cooking up change with communities across the globe.



For almost 40 years, **WSCAH has delivered DIGNITY, COMMUNITY and CHOICE** via a food pantry by bringing people from across NYC to our food on the Upper West Side. Last year, we created a Mobile Market that increased our reach by 35% and allowed us to finally bring **our healthy food to people across the city**. The Mobile Market program works in collaborative partnership with 17 community-based organizations and leverages the strengths of each participating organization and the reach they have in their community. Going beyond food distribution, the Mobile Market partners with other organizations to bring complementary services and resources such as SNAP and health insurance enrollment, health screenings, and cooking demos to some of most isolated members of our community who are often unable to easily access our 86th Street Market. Our Mobile Market has been a reminder that we must innovate to support our community but we cannot do so without putting our customers and their dignity, their hunger, and their health first!

WSCAH applauds SUNY for pushing to bring food to people in need on campus. WSCAH has been fighting food insecurity in NYC for 40 years and we know there is no magic bullet to fight food insecurity, nor can the work be done in isolation. Campus based food pantries, like all emergency feeding operations, must be viewed as one more tool in the community-based toolkit to fight food insecurity. The key is to embed **Dignity, Community, and Choice** into the food, the service, and the collaborations as you continue to nurture graduates who will change the world!

## West Side Campaign Against Hunger

263 West 86th Street | New York, NY 10024

Tel: (212) 362-3662 x112

# STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIPS

## CUNY, BMCC, AND SINGLE STOP

In 2010, **City University of New York, Borough of Manhattan Community College (BMCC) and Single Stop USA** formed a partnership to offer services to students which would address the barriers that impeded on their degree attainment. Students who visit the Single Stop office are provided with a free assessment to determine their service needs. The assessment is conducted by licensed social workers in a safe and confidential manner. Borough of Manhattan Community College developed this service model (of having LMSW provide the service) as we recognize that our student population would be the beneficiaries of the expertise that the staff offered.

In its initial implemented stage, Single Stop provided five core services:

- Health Insurance Enrollment;
- Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) application assistance;
- Legal Counseling
- Financial Counseling; and,
- Tax Preparation.

To maximize the benefits of these service to our students, we provided the services on the campus. This eliminates the need for the student to leave the campus to obtain these particular services and it supports their academic endeavors. Health insurance enrollers are on the campus three days a week, assessing students for the Affordable Care Act and enrolling them into healthcare plans where appropriate. All of the Single Stop staff are trained to conduct SNAP eligibility assessments and where appropriate, SNAP applications are completed at the Single Stop site. An attorney is on the campus once a week to assist students with housing issues, fair hearing counseling around benefits and immigration issues. Over the past 9 years, BMCC Single Stop has provided free tax preparation to the students and family members. As a financial aid support, this tax program has contributed to households in a very meaningful manner as it allowed a savings in filing fees in the hundreds of thousands of dollars (this past tax seasons students saved over 300,000 dollars in filing fees).

As the needs of the students increased, so did the response from Student Affairs. Marva Craig, Vice President of Student Affairs, Michael Hutmaker, Dean of Student Affairs, and Deborah Harte, Director of Single Stop continually assess the need for additional services and as such have been fortunate to be able to bring the following additional services to the BMCC students with tremendous support from various partners.

### EMERGENCY FUNDS AND FUNDING SOURCES:

#### Carroll & Milton Petrie Grant

BMCC has been a recipient of the Carroll & Milton Petrie Grant since 2014. The Petrie Student Emergency Grant Fund program seeks to assist eligible students coping with an unexpected hardship, so they may continue their education at BMCC and become financially aware and responsible. The program's long-range goal is to ensure the widest range of students' access to its available financial resources with the goal of retention and graduation.

#### Carroll & Milton Petrie Grant

BMCC is one of the CUNY colleges to receive funding specifically for the food pantry. The grant is provided to purchase food which help in addressing food insecurity on the campus.

#### BMCC Foundation Emergency Fund Program

The BMCC Foundation Emergency Fund program seeks to assist eligible students facing short-term emergencies. The program assists with transportation, food, small grants, and emergency loans.

#### Eugene M. Lang Foundation Grant

The Eugene M. Lang foundation provides funds to our students who are facing financial hardships in relation to immigration status. The funds are issues in grants to pay fees for application for citizenship and permanent residence cards (new and renewal).

#### Citigroup/Citi Community Development Free Tax Program

This free tax preparation program provides services to our students, family, faculty, and staff who are eligible to participate in the VITA program. The program is offered both day and evening. The program uses qualified and Internal Revenue Service (IRS) certified Tax Preparers/Quality Reviewers and Site Managers. Using the information provided by the client, and by asking follow-up questions, the preparers complete the tax return and review the final return with the client before transmitting it to the IRS.



## OTHER SERVICES:

### Comprehensive Assistance and Retention Empowerment Services Program (CARES)

The Comprehensive Assistance and Retention Empowerment Services Program (CARES) was designed to assist BMCC students who are currently in foster care or have previously been in foster care. The goal of the CARES program is to create a sense of community among the population by providing students a single point of contact for supportive services. Students receive case management, referrals to social services off-campus and referrals to academic support services on campus, and are encouraged to participate in leadership programs which are designed to build confidence.

### Housing Information & Referrals

The Single Stop office provides information and referrals surrounding affordable housing, rental assistance programs, and emergency housing information to students facing housing insecurity.

### Immigration Assistance

The Single Stop office partners with the City Bar Justice Center and Fragomen Worldwide LLC to provide students with immigration clinics, forums, and seminars. These events allow students to meet individually with licensed attorneys to receive valuable information on guidance on their immigration needs.

### Pathways to Success

This program is designed to support expectant and parenting teens and young adults to succeed through health and educational services.

### City Harvest

BMCC partnered with City Harvest to provide a 7-week nutritional education program to our students. The program is designed to teach the basics of nutrition, cooking and budgeting. Chefs and nutritionists from City Harvest work in teams to teach a two-hour class each week for six weeks. The lessons promote a nutrition philosophy of moderation, variety and balance. The final week is reserved for a group trip to a supermarket to get shopping tips.

### BMCC Food Pantry

Housed in the Single Stop office, the “Panther Pantry” serves students and members of the BMCC community who are facing an immediate hunger crisis by providing an emergency bag of food items to take home. Students also receive referrals to neighborhood food pantries. The Panther Pantry is open for operation Monday through Friday from 9:30am-5:30pm.



Marva Craig (left) and Debbie Harte (right)

## HOW DO I GET



## on my campus?



<https://singlestopusa.org/education/>



# Building Coalitions with Expertise in Academic Health and Hospital Affairs

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## LEAH WENTWORTH



Leah Wentworth has over 10 years of experience managing and evaluating public health and injury prevention programs, with service in local and state government and academia. She currently serves as Director of Health Initiatives and Research in the Office of Academic Health and Hospital Affairs, providing program and evaluation expertise to violence prevention and student health promotion projects.

Leah has a B.A. in Community Planning from the University of Massachusetts—Boston, an MPH in Health Policy and Management from the University of Massachusetts—Amherst, and a Ph.D. in Occupational and Environmental Health from the University of Iowa, where she trained at the CDC-funded Injury Prevention Research Center.

*“Leah’s participation on the Food Insecurity Task Force is tremendous. She has an amazing skill-set in research methods, survey design and analysis. She is also a consummate professional with an uncanny ability to take on the most complex issues whenever needed and bring clarity to individuals and group dynamics that lead to real solutions. Leah is a once in a generation colleague, and it is nothing less than an honor and a privilege to work with her on one of the most pressing challenges facing college students across the nation. We are very fortunate at SUNY to have among us the right person, with the right skill-set, at the right time”*

*John L. Graham, Ph.D.  
Associate Provost for Student Affairs*

# Task Force Building Coalitions with Government Relations

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## SUSAN ZIMET



Special Assistant to Governor- Food & Anti-Hunger Policy Coordinator

Susan Zimet was appointed by Governor Cuomo in early 2019 as the Special Assistant -Food & Anti- Hunger Policy Coordinator. Building on the success of the Anti-Hunger Task Force, Governor Cuomo created the position to address food insecurity and hunger. Susan works with various State

agencies, stakeholder groups and the task force to implement new initiatives and to enhance existing activities that will help close the gap for many New Yorkers in need of healthy options.

Prior to her appointment, Susan was the Executive Director of Hunger Action Network of NYS. In that capacity Susan was instrumental in securing a multi-million dollar increase in the Hunger Prevention Nutrition Assistance Program (HPNAP), passage of the Farm to Food Bank and School to Emergency Feeding Program legislation as well as working on issues that help to lift people out of poverty.

Zimet served as the Town Supervisor of New Paltz and as an Ulster County Legislator. She spearheaded issues that impacted women, children, veterans, the environment and property tax reform

Susan’s book *Roses and Radicals: The Epic Story of The Women’s Right to Vote* was published to critical acclaim in January 2016 by Viking Publishing/Random House. The book has received rave reviews by the NY Times, Chicago Tribune, Publishers Weekly and other education reviewers.

Zimet served as an adjunct professor at SUNY New Paltz, teaching Advertising and Marketing courses and overseeing the colleges international marketing internship program.

Prior to that, Susan served as VP, Associate Media Director at Grey Advertising, overseeing many blue-chip clients including General Foods and Timex.

Susan is a mother of two and lives with her husband, Steve in Athens, NY.

# WE WORK FOR CAMPUS FOOD SECURITY

March 2019



November 2018



July 2018



# STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIPS

## OFFICE OF TEMPORARY AND DISABILITY ASSISTANCE (OTDA)

OTDA Office of Nutrition Outreach and Public Education and SNAP Awareness are committed to supporting the work of the Task Force. As collaborating partners, they will provide system-wide Material Distribution of Information to Students, envision a Campus Pantry SNAP Awareness Day, provide ongoing Targeted Pre-Screening and Application Days and ongoing SNAP Food Demonstrations at SUNY College Pantries. These support services will include working with and through their internal partners such as Hunger Solutions, Nourish Your Neighbor – A Healthy Food Drive Initiative and Capital Region Eat Smart New York.



**ANDREW M. CUOMO**  
Governor

### Office of Temporary and Disability Assistance

**SAMUEL D. ROBERTS**  
Commissioner

**BARBARA C. GUINN**  
Executive Deputy Commissioner

New York State OTDA administers the SNAP, SNAP Outreach, and SNAP Nutrition Education programs. The Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) is the largest nutrition safety net and provides nutrition assistance to millions of eligible, low-income individuals and families. With the SNAP benefit, individuals and families struggling to make ends meet are able to purchase more food within their limited budget.

Not all individuals who are eligible for SNAP are aware of the program. And, many individuals find that they need assistance with the application process. Still others experience difficulties making their benefit stretch the whole month. OTDA works with many local not for profit providers raise awareness of hunger, promote the availability of SNAP benefits to make ends meet, and provide nutrition education to provide food insecure families with skills to make healthy meals with their limited food budget.

- Working with Hunger Solutions New York, Local Nutrition Outreach coordinators have been conducting pre-screening and application assistance on college campuses. In February-March, 2019 Hunger Solutions will be conducting a “College Student Hunger SNAP Outreach Campaign” to raise awareness about SNAP and to assist with pre-screening and application assistance at targeted campuses.
- Working with local Cornell Cooperative Extensions, local nutritionists are conducting nutrition education outreach events across the state during March Nutrition Awareness Month to promote ‘Healthy Eating on a Limited Budget’. These events are being conducted at 42 select college pantries. Activities included interactive exhibits, food demonstrations and workshops, food pantry tours and assisting college staff with design and set up of food pantries to facilitate access and healthy choices, signage and planning healthy food drives. Frequently exhibits were coordinated and conducted with NOEP Coordinators.







## COUNCIL ON HUNGER AND FOOD POLICY

In March 2019, a virtual meeting was held with members of the New York State Council on Hunger and Food Policy to offer feedback on sustaining efforts to reduce food insecurity across SUNY campuses. Since leadership of the SUNY Food Insecurity Task Force began participating in the New York State Council on Hunger and Food Policy meetings, chaired by the New York State Department of Agriculture and Markets, there have been several partnerships secured with other state agencies and not-for-profits advancing outreach on campus.

## HUNGER SOLUTIONS NY

Hunger Solutions New York is a statewide non-profit organization dedicated to alleviating hunger. We promote awareness of hunger in your community, awareness about programs that address chronic and crisis hunger, full participation in hunger assistance programs for all who are eligible, public policies that contribute to ending hunger, and public awareness of the economic benefit of anti-hunger programs. Hunger Solutions New York works with local, state, and national partners.

Hunger Solutions New York provides services that connect hungry New Yorkers with SNAP, WIC, the School Breakfast Program, the Summer Food Service Program and the Child and Adult Care Food Program. Services are provided at both the community and statewide level.

Hunger Solutions New York manages the Nutrition Outreach and Education Program (NOEP) to connect New Yorkers with SNAP and the WIC Help NY Program to connect people with WIC. Both programs provide free and confidential community-based services. In addition, Hunger Solutions New York works to expand participation in the Summer Food Service Program and the Child and Adult Care Food Program.

Through the Food Insecurity Task Force, SUNY and Hunger Solutions New York have forged a partnership to contribute to SUNY's many efforts to address student hunger. To

date, through this partnership, the following has been accomplished:

- Hunger Solutions New York had the opportunity to introduce the organization and its Programs to members of the SUNY Food Insecurity Task Force in July, 2018.
- In a survey of NOEP Coordinators conducted in August 2018 approximately 33% (22 of 66) reported some connection with a SUNY/CUNY campus. Connections ranged from hanging flyers throughout the campus, to exhibiting at a campus event, to conducting SNAP pre-screenings through which people can learn if they may be eligible for SNAP, to assisting people on campus to complete a SNAP application.
- SUNY had the opportunity to educate NOEP Coordinators from around the state about the work of the SUNY Food Insecurity Task Force in October, 2018.
- Staff from Hunger Solutions New York met with SUNY's Director of Child Care and Related Services in November and identified numerous ways to work together.
- In February-March, 2019 the College Student Hunger SNAP Outreach Campaign is being conducted by NOEP Coordinators. In addition, SUNY distributed information about the campaign on social media.

As we move forward in our partnership, we will make the College Student Hunger SNAP Outreach Campaign an annual effort through NOEP and will begin on-campus outreach efforts by the WIC Help NY Program. In addition, together we will identify policy initiatives at the campus and state level to sustain the improvements made in securing food security for all SUNY students.



