FEATURED PROGRAM: PALOUSE FRESH FOOD PROJECT

Funded through AmeriCorps VISTA & Washington Campus Compact

Since August 2015, the Palouse Fresh Food Project has increased the availability of fresh food for community members who are food insecure through service learning opportunities and community collaboration. In 2017, the program was honored with the first annual Engaged Campus-Community Partnership Award by Western Region Campus Compact.

In 2015–16, this program collected

6,521 lbs of food and
$1,679.83 in donations,
which is equivalent to 2,820 meals.

The Palouse Fresh Food Project also:

• Developed the Whitman County Fresh Food Donation Guide, a single source for the public to use to donate or receive fresh, local food.

• Worked directly with 18 community partners, two courses, and three student groups to improve fresh food access and develop public gardens throughout the county.

• Created the WSU Food Recovery Club to combat food waste on campus. The club rescued 912 lbs of food at five events.

• Managed 941 volunteers who completed over 1,900 hours of service.

• Collaborated with the Community Action Center to develop five cooking demonstrations for food pantry patrons.

• Coordinated Poverty Awareness Week events, which involved 40 groups who held 37 events. These events reached over 1,200 people and collected over 4,000 lbs of food and $725 in donations to support local food pantries.

“...This experience instilled in me a stronger sense of civic duty. I learned a lot about the demographics and needs of my local community.”

– Hannah Street, Recent Graduate
STUDENT ENGAGEMENT

9,636 students

recorded
87,204 service hours in 2015–16

3,343 students participated in 680 CCE-led projects

390 group projects were organized for 48 student groups

88.0% of students who completed the annual student survey recognize the importance of active citizenship

85.4% of students felt they made a positive difference in the community

"I learned so much. It was incredible to be given the opportunity to apply the teachings of this course beyond the classroom to real life." — Hurst Kopp, Social Sciences General Studies

ACADEMIC SERVICE LEARNING

2,241 students in 82 academic courses completed 24,442 hours of service learning

551 Global Campus students completed 7,768 hours of service for courses

7 colleges

and 16 departments offered service learning courses

16 academic courses worked on projects related to food security

76.8% of students in service learning courses felt their service helped them apply academic concepts in real life settings

72.6% of students in courses felt their community-based experiences helped them develop their professional skills

COMMUNITY IMPACT

893 active community partners located in:

35 WA counties
30 states
10 countries

1,135 unique community engagement opportunities

133 Palouse-based partners

96 community partners focused on food security and nutrition

27 food security related projects

101 service learning internships

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