

HUNGER SOLUTIONS INSTITUTE



ACCOMPLISHMENT
REPORT 2021

ANNUAL IMPACT

Hunger Solutions Institute | 2021

Auburn University College of Human Sciences’ Hunger Solutions Institute (HSI) engaged more than **135 students** in teaching and research activities.

HSI received more than **\$1.3 million** to launch or expand four research initiatives **in partnership with more than 50 Auburn University partners, external organizations and funders.**

HSI engaged more than **100 statewide partners**, including producers, retailers, consumers, state agencies and non-governmental organizations in using innovative solutions to expand access of healthy foods for all Alabama residents.

In addition, HSI moderated Bread for the World’s college/university **White House** conversations and provided testimony during the U.S. House of Representatives Committee on Rules Hearing on Ending Hunger in America: Examining Hunger on College Campuses.



CONTENTS

Student Outcomes	05
Research Activities	06
Outreach/Service Initiatives	08
Development Success	10
Publications & Presentations	12

STUDENT OUTCOMES

Hunger Studies Minor

Through HSI's leadership, Auburn University provides one of the only Hunger Studies minors in the country. Students representing every discipline apply their major studies in cross-disciplinary courses to interactively study hunger and food insecurity.

HSI provides instruction for the foundational course in the Hunger Studies minor, HUSC 2000/2007, Hunger: Causes, Consequences and Responses. Enrollment in this course remains strong as active learning strategies and engaged discussions are implemented. In spring 2021, **six graduates** completed requirements for the Hunger Studies minor. Also during spring 2021, **45 students** enrolled in HUSC 2000/HUSC 2007, while **39** enrolled in this foundational course in fall 2021.

HSI provides additional instruction for the Hunger Studies Capstone course in the Hunger Studies minor, HUSC 4000. During spring 2021, **16 students** enrolled.

HSI Fellows

To support students whose majors/minors require an internship, HSI typically hosts part time and full time interns throughout the academic year. HSI hosted **one** Non-Profit minor during spring 2021, **five** Global Studies in Human Sciences majors in summer 2021, and **three** Global Studies in Human Sciences majors in fall 2021. Student interns supported development and expansion of the Hunger Dialogue toolkit; development of Healthy Food Hotspots, a rural grocery initiative co-led by HSI; development of education components for Nourish Wellness, a pediatric wellness initiative co-led by HSI; coordination of Universities Fighting World Hunger monthly and annual programming; coordination of a national workgroup, Zero Hunger Pathways Project; and data management for a sustainability-related report for Auburn University.

Hunger Solutions Institute also supported **four** Auburn University Undergraduate Research Fellows. In the fall, one fellow supported research needs of a national workgroup,

Zero Hunger Pathways Project, and another supported research needs of a pediatric wellness initiative co-led by HSI, Nourish Wellness.



Graduate Students

HSI continues to expand recruitment and funding for graduate students who have an interest in interdisciplinary research, teaching and/or outreach associated with hunger.

In spring 2021, **two** PhD students in Nutrition, Dietetics, and Hospitality Management and Public Policy and Public Administration continued as HSI graduate research assistants. Along with specific research projects focused on four-year university college student hunger, these HSI graduate students provided logistical support for campus hunger initiatives.

In summer 2021, **one** English Language Arts Education doctoral student joined HSI to support high school curriculum development.

During fall 2021, **three** additional graduate students joined HSI as graduate research assistants. One Public Horticulture master's student and one Nutrition, Dietetics and Hospitality Management master's student received graduate research assistantships to support two-year college student hunger efforts. One Agricultural Economics master's student received a graduate research assistantship to support research associated with the Alabama Gus Schumacher Nutrition Incentive Program.

RESEARCH

Since its inception in 2012, the Hunger Solutions Institute has focused much of its efforts on outreach and teaching. Strategic action was taken in 2021 to garner grant funding and launch research activities for four high impact projects.

Double Up Food Bucks Alabama

In partnership with the Department of Agricultural Economics and Rural Sociology, HSI developed and received a three-year grant totaling more than \$1 million from United States Department of Agriculture National Institute of Food and Agriculture and additional stakeholders to implement and evaluate Double Up Food Bucks Alabama. This program makes fresh, healthy food choices more accessible to all, allowing Alabama residents who use Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, or SNAP, benefits to purchase double the amount of fresh fruits and vegetables from local farmers at farmers markets and independent grocers.

Hunger Free Higher Ed

In conjunction with the Department of Nutrition, Dietetics and Hospitality Management, HSI developed and received funding for a three-year grant totaling \$315,000 from Ichigo Foundation to expand support of Hunger Free Higher Ed. Research associated with this grant will assess food insecurity prevalence and target student indicators as well as campus culture, policies and practices with regard to student food insecurity in 2 four-year universities and 15 two-year colleges in Alabama. Data will be made available to universities and colleges to positively impact student food security.

In conjunction with the Department of Nutrition, Dietetics and Hospitality Management, HSI continued implementation of a three-year grant totaling more than \$535,000 from the ECMC Foundation in support of Hunger Free Higher Ed. Research associated with this grant assessed food insecurity prevalence and target student indicators as well as campus culture, policies and practices with regard to student food insecurity in 10 four-year universities in Alabama. To support assessment of campus culture, policies and practices regarding student food insecurity, HSI led development and validation of a Campus Food Aid Self-Assessment Tool (C-FAST).

Nourish Wellness

In conjunction with the Harrison College of Pharmacy, College of Liberal Arts, College of Nursing, and Edward Via College of Osteopathic Medicine (VCOM), HSI developed and received a one-year Creative Works and Social Impact Scholarship totaling \$40,000 to launch and evaluate Nourish Wellness. Nourish Wellness is a clinical-community pediatric wellness initiative supporting children with limited resources in managing and preventing cardiometabolic diseases. Research will focus on recruitment and retainment of participants in a clinical-community pediatric wellness initiative as well as clinical and quality of life changes resulting from participation.

Healthy Food Hotspots

In partnership with Department of Agricultural Economics and Rural Sociology, Wright's Market, and Lee-Russell Council of Government Area Agency on Aging, HSI successfully led a 2021 Tiger Giving Day Project to crowd fund more than \$11,000. Healthy Food Hotspots seeks to determine the efficacy of technology in expanding local food business enterprises and benefitting populations with limited access to supermarkets.



OUTREACH

Universities Fighting World Hunger (UFWH)

Presidents United to Solve Hunger (PUSH)

End Child Hunger in Alabama (ECHA)

Alabama Campus Coalition for Basic Needs (ACCBN)

In March 2021, HSI partnered with the University of California, Davis to convene the 16th annual UFWH Summit. More than 500 individuals registered for the virtual 2021 UFWH Summit. A total of 46 speakers presented, 44 poster abstracts were submitted, and 41 presenters prepared posters and a one-minute video.

UFWH continued monthly events to support student chapters. In January 2021, UFWH partnered with the College and University Food Bank Alliance to host a College Food Pantry Roundtable. Almost 60 participants from 30 universities and three organizations participated. During September 2021, UFWH partnered with Alliance to End Hunger to host an advocacy training. Thirty-five students from 10 universities participated. In October 2021, UFWH partnered with Palms for Life to host Faces of Hunger: A Short Film Festival for UFWH chapters worldwide. Ten universities hosted more than 500 attendees at this week-long event featuring cameos by many of the filmmakers and facilitated discussion by international hunger experts. During November 2021, UFWH partnered with Roger Thurow to host a weekly book club for students. Fifteen students attended five weekly discussions on the book, *The First 1,000 Days*. UFWH also hosted a UFWH Summit abstract development session in November 2021 to support potential student presenters in developing abstracts for submission to the 2022 UFWH Summit. Twenty-five students registered for this event.

Throughout 2021, the UFWH Program Coordinator provided support to student chapters around the globe as they implemented university-specific efforts to accomplish UFWH goals on their campuses.

In March 2021, HSI convened a virtual PUSH Forum. More than 100 higher education leaders registered for the 2021 PUSH Forum. President Emerita of University of California and Founder of the University of California Global Food Initiative, Janet Napolitano, served as opening keynote.

An afternoon panel focused on student empowerment. The following day panelists discussed educating the next generation through multi-level teaching. Barron Segar, President and CEO of the World Food Programme USA provided the closing keynote.

The PUSH Commitment remains strong with 112 PUSH Signatories and 29 engaged countries. This network of university presidents have agreed to make food and nutrition security a priority on their campus – making ending hunger a core value of higher education institutions worldwide.

In 2021, ECHA hosted quarterly, virtual meetings in January, April, August and October focused on supporting statewide organizations leading child nutrition feeding response to the pandemic including Alabama Department of Human Resources, Alabama State Department of Education and Alabama Food Bank Association.

County Food Guides

ECHA, under the leadership of HSI, maintains the County Food Guide Project to ensure families throughout the state of Alabama are aware of food resources in their county. The ECHA County Food Guide is a comprehensive website of all food resources in the state. In assistance with Share Meals, three HSI team members, nearly 100 community volunteers and more than 2,500 hours of commitment, the ECHA County Food Guide now boasts a statewide database of nearly 7,000 food resources. Residents in every county have utilized the web-based map. Since spring 2020, more than 10,000 people were also reached on ECHA social media regarding the food guide.

Double Up Food Bucks Alabama

ECHA began partnering with Alabama farmers, farmers markets and independent grocers to ensure Alabama residents have access to healthy, fresh foods. Through Double Up Food Bucks Alabama, recipients of the USDA’s Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program receive a dollar-for-dollar match, up to \$20 per day, to spend on locally grown or regionally produced fresh fruits and vegetables when they make a purchase using their Electronic Benefits Transfer card at participating retailers. Between September and December 2021, Double Up Food Bucks Alabama provided more than \$40,000 in incentives at five farmers markets and two independent grocers.

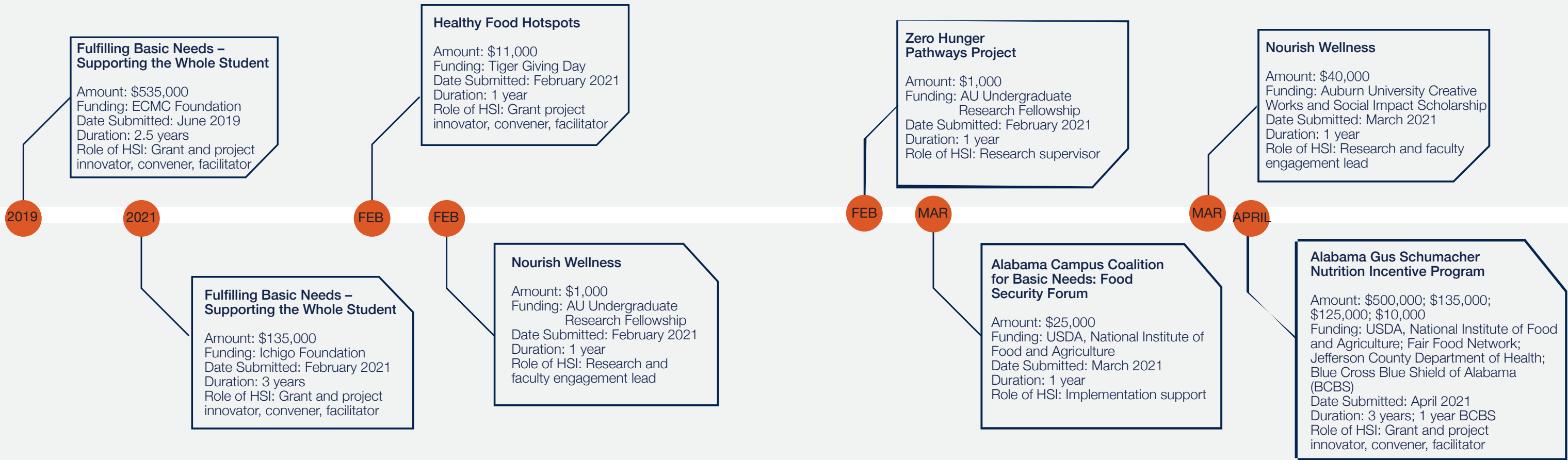
In conjunction with the Department of Nutrition, Dietetics and Hospitality Management, HSI continues to expand ACCBN. Two additional four-year universities joined the existing 10 four-year universities; and 15 two-year colleges joined.

A USDA funded conference grant, led by Dr. Onikia Brown, supported an in-person fall conference for ACCBN. More than 100 attendees participated in the two-day event in October 2021 at the Auburn University Hotel and Conference Center. An opening keynote was provided by Rachel Sumekh, CEO of Swipe Out Hunger. Multiple panels featuring Alabama universities and colleges highlighted best practices and next steps in combatting college student hunger. ACCBN leaders led a workshop on the six-step systematic process each college and university progress through to develop a sustainable long-term plan to combat college student hunger. The conference closed with a keynote from acclaimed community college president, Dr. Russell Lowery-Hart, and his efforts to support student basic needs.

With funding from ECMC Foundation and Ichigo Foundation, HSI provides technical assistance to the 27 participating colleges and universities as they progress through the six-step systematic process. To date, all 27 campuses have engaged a campus coalition focused on basic needs. Nine partnering four-year universities facilitated completion of a university-wide, online student food insecurity survey, and nine completed the Campus Food Aid Self-Assessment Tool (C-FAST). HSI has generated six university’s reports and supported development of five action plans. One university received a \$25,000 mini-grant in 2021.

DEVELOPMENT

The following are active HSI grants and gifts.



PUBLICATIONS & PRESENTATIONS

Refereed Research Articles

Casolaro, E. & Powers, A.R. (In Preparation). Financial implications of personal gardening on rural, elderly populations. *Journal of Agriculture, Food Systems, and Community Development*.

Goodman, M., Gonzalez, S.R., Brown, O. & Powers, A.R. (In Preparation). Prevalence and target indicators of college student food insecurity in 10 public and private Alabama universities. *Journal of Agriculture, Food Systems, and Community Development*.

Gonzalez, S.R., Emison, B., Thornton, K., & Powers, A.R. (In Preparation). Development and validation of a college campus food aid culture, practices, and policies self-assessment. *Journal of Nutrition Education and Behavior*.

Terry, H., Kensler, M., Chadwick, N., Hubbard, S., Alavalapati, J., & Powers, A.R. (In Preparation). Auburn University and the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals: A voluntary university review. *International Journal of Sustainability in Higher Education*.

Reports and Other Creative Works

Laney, M. & Powers, A.R. (In Preparation). *Auburn University and the Sustainable Development Goals, 2019-2021*. Office of Sustainability, Auburn University, AL.

Goodman, M., Gonzalez, S.R., & Powers, A.R. (2021). *Alabama A&M University food insecurity report*. Hunger Solutions Institute, Auburn University, AL.

Goodman, M., Gonzalez, S.R., & Powers, A.R. (2021). *Jacksonville State University food insecurity report*. Hunger Solutions Institute, Auburn University, AL.

Goodman, M., Gonzalez, S.R., & Powers, A.R. (2021). *Troy University food insecurity report*. Hunger Solutions Institute, Auburn University, AL.

Goodman, M., Gonzalez, S.R., & Powers, A.R. (2021). *University of Alabama at Birmingham food insecurity report*. Hunger Solutions Institute, Auburn University, AL.

Goodman, M., Gonzalez, S.R., & Powers, A.R. (2021). *University of North Alabama food insecurity report*. Hunger Solutions Institute, Auburn University, AL.

Grubb, M. & Powers, A.R. (2021). Measuring community resilience. *Auburn University Journal of Undergraduate Scholarship*, Auburn University, AL.

Terry, H., Pfister, L. & Powers, A.R. (2021). *Auburn University and the Sustainable Development Goals, 2016-2018*. Office of Sustainability, Auburn University, AL.

Refereed Research Presentations

Gonzalez, S.R., Hodara, M., Miller, P., Powers, A., & Sanchez, A. (2021). Supporting the whole student: Initial findings from the ECMC Foundation basic needs initiative. *National College Attainment Network Conference*, Virtual.

Goodman, M., Chin, J. & Powers, A.R. (2021). Web-based resources to combat food insecurity, *Hunger Free Communities Summit*, Washington, D.C. (Virtual).

Goodman, M. & Powers, A.R. (2021). Food insecurity prevalence among Alabama college students: Initial impressions. *Universities Fighting World Hunger Annual Summit*, University of California, Davis, CA (Virtual).

Rains, S. & Powers, A.R. (2021). Validating the Campus Food Aids Self-Assessment Tool. *Society of Nutrition Education and Behavior Annual Conference*, Virtual.

Rains, S. & Powers, A.R. (2021). Assessing food insecurity resources and culture at Alabama four-year colleges and universities. *Universities Fighting World Hunger Annual Summit*, University of California, Davis, CA (Virtual).

Terry, H. & Powers, A.R. (2021). Auburn University and the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals. *Universities Fighting World Hunger Annual Summit*, University of California, Davis, CA (Virtual).

Invited Presentations

Casolaro, E. & Powers, A.R. (2021). Financial implications of personal gardening among elderly in rural Alabama, Auburn Research: Student Symposium, Auburn University, AL.

Goodman, M. & Powers, A.R. (2021). The prevalence of food insecurity on Alabama college campuses: initial impressions, Auburn Research: Student Symposium, Auburn University, AL.

Powers, A.R. (2021). End Child Hunger in Alabama County Food Guides. Hunger Free Communities Quarterly Webinar, Virtual.

Powers, A.R. (2021). Hunger Solutions Institute. Mindfulness Matters Course, Auburn University, AL.

Powers, A.R. (2021). Hunger: Causes, Consequences, and Solutions. Sunrise Rotary Club, Auburn, AL.

Powers, A.R. (2021). Hunger: Causes, Consequences, and Solutions. Global Issues in Food, Agriculture, Development, and Environment Course, Auburn University, AL.

Powers, A.R. (2021). Moderator. Bread for the World: College/University White House Conversation, Virtual.

Powers, A.R. (2021). Panelist. Bread for the World: Conversation with the White House in the Southeast Region, Virtual.

Powers, A.R. (2021). Testimony. U.S. House of Representatives Committee on Rules Hearing on Ending Hunger in America: Examining Hunger on College Campuses, Virtual

Rains, S.R. & Powers, A.R. (2021). Assessing the climate of food insecurity at Alabama colleges and universities, Auburn Research: Student Symposium, Auburn University, AL.

Teel, J. & Powers, A.R. (2021). The potential for institutions to bring local foods to the public: a case of Alabama's Le-Russell area, Auburn Research: Student Symposium, Auburn University, AL.

Terry, H. & Powers, A.R. (2021). Auburn University and the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals, Auburn Research: Student Symposium, Auburn University, AL.



AUBURN
College of Human Sciences
Hunger Solutions Institute

The Hunger Solutions Institute was established by the College of Human Sciences and the Alabama Agricultural Experiment Station at Auburn University to further Auburn's nationally recognized efforts in food security domestically and globally. Auburn University is an equal opportunity educational institution/employer. hungersolutionsinstitute.org