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Food Recovery Network Hosts Nine Regional Summits on Food Waste and Hunger Across the Country

COLLEGE PARK, MARYLAND — April 3, 2018 — Food Recovery Network (FRN) and the ten Spring 2018 Regional Outreach Coordinators (ROCs) are hosting summits every weekend from April 6th to May 5th in nine cities across the country. These summits will provide college students with the opportunity to have conversations with FRN National and other students in the region that go beyond a surface-level understanding of the issue and apply their knowledge to local problems around food waste and hunger.

As the United States faces an alarming paradox — 1 in 6 Americans is hungry while 40% of food is wasted — FRN student leaders are doing something about this problem. Since 2011, FRN has recovered more than 2.7 million pounds of food, which is equivalent to 2.2 million meals donated to those in need. Additionally, this recovered food prevented 4.8 million kilograms of CO2 emissions which impacts the environment long-term. FRN aims to achieve two programmatic goals by June 2019: increase our 800,000 pounds of food recovered annually to one million pounds year over year and expand the network to 350 chapters. The regional summits will strengthen FRN’s work in several critical ways. First, by addressing issues of food waste and hunger at the local level; second, giving FRN student leaders the tools to increase their chapter’s recovery program and third, inspiring new schools to join FRN’s national efforts of reducing food waste at the source by establishing food recovery programs.

This is FRN’s second class of Regional Outreach Coordinators, following the first cohort of four students, which served in the Spring and Fall semesters in 2016. “We expanded the program by more than 50% based on our analysis of the first cohort and incorporated new ambitious goals,” said Hannah Cather, FRN’s Program Manager. “The Summits are a culmination of work the ROCs have already been doing within the movement. I’m thrilled about the events they’ve planned, from service at the Sustainable Living Project in Florida to LA Kitchen Founder Robert Egger speaking at the LA summit to discussions of community systems. The content addresses the varied aspects of this growing movement.”

“We see the ROCs as a pathway for more leadership within FRN and the food recovery movement,” said Regina Northouse, FRN’s Executive Director. “We need to continue to make more space for student leaders who have the capacity to do more and who want to grow as leaders. The program also helps FRN to provide more on-the-ground support to existing and newly established chapters as FRN seeks to establish higher education as the first sector where food recovery is the norm, not the exception.”
The nine summits will be hosted at the following schools on the specified dates: **Feeding Florida Summit 4/5** (University of Tampa), **Music City Summit 4/6** (Lipscomb University), **Los Angeles County Summit 4/6** (California State University, Northridge), **Dirty South Summit 4/14** (University of Houston), **FRN@UC San Diego Food Waste Summit 4/21** (University of California, San Diego), **DMV Summit 4/22** (Goucher College), **Down East Shindig Summit 4/27** (University of New England), **Taking Care of Our Community: PA Summit 4/28** (Cabrini University), and **FRN | MN Summit 5/5** (University of Minnesota, Twin Cities).

“This one-day summit is designed to provide a platform for idea sharing, problem solving, and networking [with] schools,” said Lauren Twele, a ROC from the University of Tampa. “So many chapters do amazing work in our own backyard and we don’t even realize it, which is why I am excited to host the Feeding Florida FRN Regional Summit. It is my goal to make this Summit a collaborative effort to strengthen each other's commitment and passion for FRN, and hope to inspire new schools to get on board with the food recovery movement!”

**About Food Recovery Network**
Food Recovery Network (FRN) unites and supports college student leaders in the fight against food waste and hunger in America. Since 2011, FRN students have recovered more than 2.7 million pounds of surplus food, that would otherwise go to waste, from their campus cafeterias and local restaurants to donate to hungry Americans. Food Recovery Network has more than 235 college campus chapters in 44 states and the District of Columbia. For more information about Food Recovery Network, visit www.foodrecoverynetwork.org. Follow us on Twitter @FoodRecovery and Instagram @FoodRecovery and like us on Facebook at www.facebook.com/FoodRecoveryNetwork.

If you’re interested in learning more about the Regional Outreach Coordinator program, please email Hannah Cather at hcather@foodrecoverynetwork.org.

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