A Resolution of Commendation for the Swipe It Forward Initiative

Resolution History

The results of a Food Assistance Survey conducted in Spring 2018 found that up to 37% of the CU Boulder student body is in critical need of food assistance, meaning these students lack access to affordable, nutritious, and culturally relevant food in quantities needed to meet one’s personal needs on a daily or weekly basis. This data is on par with Wisconsin HOPE Lab’s study on food insecurity, which found 36% of
university students nationally to be food insecure. The repercussions of food insecurity for CU Boulder students are detrimental to their physical and mental health, academic performance, and overall quality of life.

In response, a coalition of campus leaders have joined together to address food insecurity within the CU Boulder Community. One recent initiative of this coalition includes Housing and Dining Services’ Swipe It Forward event, a first of its kind event on the CU Boulder campus that allows students to donate excess meal swipes to those in need.

On October 16, 2019, the first Swipe It Forward event gathered 573 donated meal swipes that were distributed to a group of 104 students in critical need of food assistance. Such an event is a great success, and the hard work and leadership of Housing and Dining Services in putting on this event deserves to be recognized. It is also critical to recognize the Environmental Center, the Volunteer Resource Center, Off-Campus Housing and Neighborhood Relations, and the BuffOne Card Office, without whom the Swipe It Forward event would not have been possible.

Resolution Summary

Whereas, up to 37% of the CU Boulder student body lacks access to affordable, nutritious, and culturally relevant food in quantities needed to meet one’s personal needs on a daily or weekly basis.

Whereas, repercussions of food insecurity for these students include negative physical impacts, difficulty performing academic tasks, a decreased state of mental health, and an overall low quality of life.

Whereas, with support from the Environmental Center, the Volunteer Resource Center, Off-Campus Housing and Neighborhood Relations, and the BuffOne Card Office, Housing and Dining Services assembled the first of its kind Swipe It Forward event across the CU Boulder Dining Halls for students to donate meal swipes to those in need on October 16, 2019.

Whereas, a group of 104 students in need of critical food assistance were allocated 573 donated meals as a result of the Swipe It Forward event.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Legislative Council of the University of Colorado Boulder Student Government, THAT:
Section 1: CUSG hereby commends Housing and Dining Services for their hard work and outstanding leadership in implementing the Swipe It Forward event. The success of this event in giving members of the student body access to affordable, nutritious, and culturally relevant food is remarkable and provides a bright source of inspiration and innovation for future efforts to increase food accessibility on the CU Boulder campus.

1. CUSG also recognizes the Environmental Center, the Volunteer Resource Center, Off-Campus Housing and Neighborhood Relations, and the BuffOne Card Office for their critical support in making the Swipe It Forward event possible.

Section 2: CUSG will support Housing and Dining Services through informational aid, tangible physical service, and potential allocation of financial backing to expand the Swipe It Forward event to occur at more regular intervals and to reach more students in need of critical food assistance as Housing and Dining Services sees fit.

   i. The CUSG Sustainability Chair will meet with Housing and Dining Services and the Food Assistance Committee (a committee consisting of employees from the Environmental Center, Volunteer Resource Center, and Off-Campus Housing and Neighborhood Relations) to discuss CUSG’s role in supporting the Swipe It Forward program within one month of the passing of this Resolution. The Sustainability Chair will then report the results of these meetings and any subsequent meetings to Legislative Council.

Section 3: The relevant parties affected by this legislation that shall be notified upon its passage by the Legislative Council and upon either obtaining the signatures of two Tri-Executives or the lapse of six days without actions by the Tri-Executives are: Housing and Dining Services, the Environmental Center, Volunteer Resource Center, and Off-Campus Housing and Neighborhood Relations

Section 4: This resolution shall take effect upon final passage by the Legislative Council and upon either obtaining the signatures of two Tri-Executives or the lapse of six days without actions by the Tri-Executives.

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Vote Count:

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Ryan Passas  
Student Body President

Michael Martin  
Student Body President

Sarah Altshuler  
President of Legislative Council