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The Power of Community Partnerships for Innovative Regional Solutions for Food Justice: A Food Alert Phone Application for Southcoast Massachusetts

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INTRODUCTION

Community / University projects are often a one-semester, single opportunity project between a single organization in the community and a single faculty member/team of students within a university. While beneficial, is there a way to extend this model to a larger, regional impact?

This poster describes a multi-year collaborative effort between a university and regional not-for-profits to:
- Develop a sustainable network
- Identify an innovative, core project for the region; and
- Create a sustainable infrastructure and process that can sustain regional projects far beyond a one-semester project.

Students played a crucial role in designing and developing the Food Finder and Food Alert applications — as a class project (Reid Mello and Bryan M Gwozdz) and as Graduate Assistants (Shaktisinha Rajput and Sirisha Jujjavarapu).

A more detailed exploration of this topic is available in a working paper entitled: “Networked for Innovation: A Model for a Long Term Service-Learning Project” by T. Shea & D. Healy, from tshea@umassd.edu.

Selected references from the paper:

Southcoast Serves

SouthCoast Serves is a UMass Dartmouth Leduc Center for Civic Engagement supported collaborative of over fifty organizations in Southeastern Massachusetts with the:
Vision: To engage service as a strategy to improve the health and welfare of our communities.
Mission: To increase the amount and impact of service and volunteerism in the SouthCoast

The NETWORK

The PROJECT – Food Finder & Food Alert Applications

CREATE FOOD ALERT

FUTURE PLANS

- Develop a Phone App to go with the web-based application
- Facilitate adoption of the applications through outreach to appropriate organizations
- Keep the Food Finder / Food Alert communities information updated
- Internship Opportunities
- Funding Opportunities
- Research Opportunities
- ELIMINATE HUNGER!