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

Dr. Timothy Shea, Deirdre Healy, Christine Sullivan, Joyce Bettencourt, and Sirisha Jujjavarapu
University of Massachusetts Dartmouth, Coastline Elderly Services, and Southeastern Southeastern MA Food Security Network

INTRODUCTION

Community / University projects are often 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 Gwоздz) and as Graduate Assistants (Shaktisingh 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!

SOUTHCOST FOOD SECURITY FORUM

Second Annual Food Security Forum – Hungry for Health
University of Massachusetts Dartmouth, Dane T. Curley Library, Grand Reading Room
Wednesday, March 28, 2018 | 5:30 - 8:00 p.m.

About Southcoast MA Food Security Network:
The Southeastern MA Food Security Network is a coalition of food pantries, farms, foundations, and social service agencies working together to promote food security in Southeastern M

About 4C Collaborative/Coastline Elderly

Nutrition: The Key to Healthy Aging, a three-year initiative to improve the health outcomes of vulnerable seniors by improving access to healthful foods, and reducing malnutrition.

About the Leduc Center for Civic Engagement

The University of Massachusetts Dartmouth seeks to prepare students for life as active and engaged citizens. To aid in this endeavor, the Leduc Center for Civic Engagement strives to identify opportunities that meet the challenge of providing active student learning while meeting and addressing community needs as outlined in the UMass Dartmouth Engaged Educational Experience.

About the Charlton College of Business

Our goal for the students at UMass Dartmouth’s Charlton College of Business is to help them develop the knowledge and skills needed to be progressive business leaders and good citizens. Experiential learning through student engagement in the region is a critical component.