

March 1, 2006

TO: Participants
War on Hunger Summit

FROM: June Henton, Dean
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RE: War on Hunger Summit

It was great having all of you on campus for the War on Hunger Summit. We have spent the past several days debriefing and discussing how we might best proceed. I have prepared an overview of the Summit below which includes *next steps* agreed upon at our final session on Sunday morning. This summary also could be useful to share with students and faculty at other universities who might have an interest in joining our campaign. Thanks to all of you who have written us with your reflections and notes on the conference which I have endeavored to incorporate in the summary.

**War on Hunger Summit
Auburn University
February 17-19, 2006**

Overview

Representatives from universities across the country met at Auburn University (AU) on February 17-19, 2006 to discuss the pursuit of a national/international student War on Hunger campaign (program and list of participating universities attached). In summary, the participants concurred that we will:

- 1) **Join *Universities Fighting World Hunger* by notifying Margaret Carrington at the World Food Program (carringtonm@un.org).**
- 2) **Unite under the logo created by Industrial Design student, Carol Bonham, by substituting the name of each respective institution to replace Auburn University on the graphic (see attached).**
- 3) **Develop each university War on Hunger campaign around the following four areas:**
 - 1) **Hunger Awareness and Consciousness-raising**
 - 2) **Fundraising**
 - 3) **Advocacy**
 - 4) **Academic Initiatives**
- 4) **Plan for a national public launch on World Food Day (October 16, 2006).**

5) **Communicate with each other.** Subscribe to the listserv hosted by the University of Missouri (www.po.missouri.edu/archives/waronthunger.html) and/or post to Auburn's War on Hunger Forum by going to the eBuzz website (www.humsci.auburn.edu/forum).

Here are some *lessons learned* from the Summit, as suggested by the speakers and/or university participants:

JUST BEGIN!

Start as small as a class project, as large as the entire campus and community, or anywhere in between. Remember the importance of having students engaged in the campaign who are passionate, patient, and willing to make a major time commitment. Also, consider the importance of the advisor role in mentoring students and helping them stay on course.

LEARN ABOUT HUNGER

Spend time with your action teams researching the complexities of hunger and how hunger relates to a wide range of disciplines across the entire academic spectrum. Key points to remember include:

- ***Hunger in America is different from chronic hunger in impoverished nations.***
The poor and hungry of the Third World have none of the "safety nets" that are available to hungry people in the First World.
- ***Hunger, poverty, and HIV/AIDS are inextricably intertwined.***
AIDS impacts the African workforce in its most productive years. The African AIDS pandemic leaves behind millions of orphans and elderly who cannot properly care for themselves. Hunger and malnutrition drastically impede the effectiveness of AIDS medication.
- ***Hunger is a women's issue.***
Seventy per cent of the world's hungry are women and girls. Nine out of 10 farmers in Africa are women. Most of WFP's food aid is given to women which ensures equitable distribution. School feeding programs are designed in particular to encourage girls to attend classes. Micro-credit lending programs have been a valuable means of economic viability for many African women.

Learn more about the United Nations World Food Programme (WFP), the largest humanitarian agency in the world, which provides both life-sustaining short-term emergency food aid and long-term development initiatives in the most under-served regions of the world. Remember, knowledge inspires passion, and these become the tools for teaching others. (AU PowerPoint available on request from Jayne Kucera jkucera@auburn.edu; WFP materials available on request from Margaret Carrington carringtonm@un.org.)

FIND A CHAMPION

Recruit someone who can leverage your human and financial resources and/or put a celebrity face on your campaign. AU did this with Nell Fortner, head women's basketball coach and head coach of the 2000 Olympic gold medal USA women's basketball team.

ENLIST THE SUPPORT OF YOUR INSTITUTION'S OFFICE OF MARKETING AND COMMUNICATIONS

The support of this office is extremely helpful in raising awareness on campus and in the community through simple introductory campaign techniques such as banners, brochures, press releases, internet surveys, and other marketing strategies.

HUNGER AWARENESS AND FUNDRAISING "CREATE THE BUZZ"

These activities can give your campaign a quick start. Auburn's hunger website (www.auburn.edu/hunger) provides a list of activities that have been undertaken on its campus. Other hunger outreach activities discussed at the summit included Georgetown College's school feeding program in Guatemala, Oregon State's soup kitchen and hunger awareness week, and Emory's student-led volunteer program that works closely with the Atlanta-area food bank.

ADVOCACY ADDRESSES WORLD HUNGER TODAY

Grass-roots advocates sow the seeds of a social movement to end world hunger in the short term. If properly organized through the power of the internet and other collective lobbying actions, student voters have the ability to exert tremendous influence on policy-makers worldwide. In fact, teaching students how to take collective action may be one of the campaign's most important outcomes. Websites such as *Bread for the World* (bread.org), *Oxfam* (oxfam.org), *Alliance to End Hunger* (alliancetoendhunger.org), and the *ONE Campaign* (one.org) offer excellent resources for getting involved and taking action.

ACADEMIC INITIATIVES SEEK A SUSTAINABLE SOLUTION TO HUNGER

Through their teaching, research, and outreach programs, universities can pursue long-term solutions to world hunger and make eliminating hunger and poverty a core value of the institution. This will help ensure the campaign's ability to survive the four-year cycle change in student leaders. A concept to consider in this regard is offering an "alternative" spring break for students to work with food insecure populations either domestically or abroad. WFP's student ambassador Lauren Bush's reflections on her experiences observing hunger and disease in Africa, Thailand, and elsewhere reinforced the importance of students understanding – first-hand, in the field – the complex issues which create chronic hunger.

CONSIDER NASULGC President PETER MCPHERSON'S CHALLENGE TO ESTABLISH COLLABORATIVE STUDY ABROAD PROGRAMS FOCUSED ON DEVELOPMENT

These collaborations with universities in countries such as Senegal and Ecuador would be sustainable over time, would immerse students in relevant course study and language proficiency, and ensure ongoing budgetary support for the War on Hunger.

SEEK OUT SUPPORT NETWORKS TO JOIN YOUR CAMPAIGN

Local food banks, NGOs, state agencies, charitable and faith-based organizations, and the corporate community represent sources of support, just to name a few.

BE PREPARED TO DEFEND YOUR POSITION AS A WAR ON HUNGER ADVOCATE

Reasons why we should care include: 1) morally, it is the right thing to do; 2) caring for each other is a part of the tradition of all faiths; 3) hunger affects peace and security in the US and around the world; 4) hunger and malnutrition have health implications for life-threatening conditions such as heart disease, diabetes, and HIV/AIDS; and 5) global hunger is an apolitical issue that receives bi-partisan support in America. Note that former South Dakota Senator George McGovern (and former Democratic Presidential Candidate), acting as an Emissary of President John F. Kennedy, presented the World Food Programme with its first check in 1961, and is now partnering with former Kansas Senator Robert Dole (and former Republican Presidential Candidate) in a worldwide effort to bring attention to the scourge of chronic hunger. Further, the U.S. government under both Democratic and Republican leadership is and has been WFP's largest financial contributor.

LEARN MORE ABOUT THE PREVALENCE OF HUNGER ON YOUR OWN CAMPUS

According to survey data at Oregon State University, food insecurity is a significant issue for many OSU students. This is probably the case on many other colleges campuses, and institutions may be well-advised to do similar surveys. As previously noted, OSU operates a soup kitchen for students and their families to address this critical need. The campus kitchen project may also be adapted for interested secondary schools following the example of Gonzaga High School in the Washington, D.C. area.

REMEMBER, "YOUR TIME IS NOW!"

Guided by the UN Millennium Development Goals, the challenge for the current generation is to take action to "eradicate extreme poverty and hunger" in the world. Making effective use of a chronology of world events, Catherine Bertini, former Executive Director of WFP, illustrated the challenges that have faced each generation since the end of World War II.. Examples of moments in time that have helped define a generation include the McCarthy era (early 1950s), the end of Apartheid in South Africa (1965), the end of the Cold War following the fall of the Berlin Wall (1989) and, most recently, the terrorist attacks on September 11, 2001. For students of the new millennium who will define the next generation, **"Your time is now."**

It was recommended by one participant that Auburn consider hosting a second Summit in 2007, which we would be pleased to do. At that meeting, other universities could submit proposals to host future summits on their respective campuses. Also, it will be our pleasure to coordinate planning efforts toward a successful national launch in October.