

UNLV  
Cares  
FOOD PANTRY

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United States

RE: Letter of Affirmation for UNLV Cares Food Pantry for STARS Innovation Credit

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing this letter to support the University of Nevada, Las Vegas STARS initiative. In this letter of affirmation to support innovation credits, I will describe the UNLV Cares Food Pantry's work done by myself, and members of the campus community.

In 2010, several members of the President's Advisory Committee (PAC) organized a holiday food drive to benefit members of the UNLV community who were facing economic duress due to the forced pay cuts and furloughs. The response from both donors and recipients was tremendous, and the UNLV Cares Food Pantry was born. The year-round pantry, open to all students, classified staff, faculty and professional staff, currently provides non-perishable items to more than 150 persons every two weeks.

UNLV Cares Food Pantry provides a sustenance safety-net for the entire campus community. The pantry's mission is to provide food for those in need in an easy and discrete manner. The first semester of the pantry's operation (Fall 2011), a mixed methods study was performed with all clients during a one-week period. Since then, a single person qualitative study was performed and constant quantitative client totals, household size, and campus affiliation take place. For two years, ethnic/diversity data were also collected. Since our partnership with a local pantry was formed, we are now able to easily track expenditures and total weight of distributed food. UNLV Cares Food Pantry is a positive asset and effective tool toward campus resilience. The campus community has bestowed its energy, resources, food, and monetary donations since the pantries first operation in Fall of 2011.

In conclusion, UNLV Cares Food Pantry's innovative focus has extensively created positive impact to the UNLV community. Across the nation, there are only approximately 100 university food pantries. The number of university food pantries is significant detail showing how UNLV strives for innovation among thousands of other universities. UNLV hopes to become a leader of this program and encourage more universities to develop similar year-round programs. Consistently, the pantry has connected and affected numerous community members and has even partnered with community businesses.

Respectfully Submitted,



Joseph Nickelson  
President of the UNLV Cares Food Pantry  
University of Nevada, Las Vegas