

SOU-Real Food Campus Commitment

We, the undersigned representatives of Southern Oregon University, are committed to improving our nation's food system to prevent adverse health, social, economic and ecological outcomes.

We believe colleges and universities must exercise leadership in our communities and throughout society by modeling ways to support ecologically sustainable, humane and socially equitable food systems.

We further recognize that investing in the use of local/regional, ecologically sustainable, humane and fair foods benefits not only the daily lives of current students, but the recruitment and retention of new students; fosters university-community relations by supporting the livelihoods of family farmers and food chain workers; and places our institution in alignment with leading colleges and universities across the country.

Accordingly, we commit our institution to taking the following steps in pursuit of 'real food' on campus:

1. Commit to annually increasing procurement of 'real food'—defined as local/community-based, fair, ecologically sound, and/or humane by the *Real Food Calculator*—so as to meet or exceed 20% of food purchases by 2023
2. Commit to establishing a transparent reporting system, including the *Real Food Calculator*, to assess food procurement and commit to compiling these assessment results in an *annual progress report*
3. Commit to forming a *food systems working group* (comprised of students, staff, faculty, food service managers, food service workers and relevant local stakeholders) responsible for developing and coordinating the implementation of an official *real food policy* and *multi-year action plan*
4. Commit to making the *real food policy*, *multi-year action plan* and *annual progress reports* publicly available online and through the Real Food Challenge
5. Commit to increasing awareness about ecologically sustainable, humane and socially equitable food systems on campus through co-curricular activities, cafeteria-based education and other appropriate means

Upon signing the Commitment, we further commit to the following tasks:


1. Within 1 month, complete the *Baseline Campus Food Survey*
2. Within 3 months, confirm with relevant parties that all contracts with distributors, food service providers and on-campus vendors will be amended in future RFP or renewal processes to align with the new *real food policy* and *multi-year action plan*
3. Within 6 months, initiate a student-led assessment of campus food procurement using the *Real Food Calculator*
4. Within 12 months, adopt a comprehensive *real food policy* and begin executing a *multi-year action plan* with annual benchmarks
5. Within 12 months, produce one substantive communications piece covering the ongoing Real Food Commitment efforts

In recognition of the need to build support for this effort among college and university administrators across the United States, we will encourage our colleagues at peer institutions to join this effort and adopt the Real Food Campus Commitment.

Signed,



President / Chancellor Signature
President

Title

Partner Student Organization(s)



Secondary Signatory Signature
VPAA

Title
10/12/18

Date