



PRESIDENTS UNITED TO SOLVE HUNGER

November 24, 2015

Dr. Michael Kensler, Director
Office of Sustainability
Langdon Hall Annex
Auburn University, AL 36849

Dear Mike:

The Hunger Solutions Institute (HSI) is honored that our global initiative Presidents United to Solve Hunger (PUSH) is being included in the Auburn University Sustainability Tracking and Assessment Rating System (STARS) report as an innovative, significant and unique project that unites universities around the world in advancing human sustainability. Auburn University, after engaging in a war against hunger for more than a decade, realized that there was no mechanism to facilitate university collaboration or the sharing of best practices in the advancement of food security. Universities were also very under-represented as world leaders determined policy and actions towards a zero hunger world.

To address this gap, in February, 2014 Auburn brought together 70 leaders from 30 universities. A consensus outcome of that historic gathering was the *Presidents' Commitment to Food and Nutrition Security*. Within a year more than 80 university presidents from five continents have signed on to the Commitment and joined PUSH, led by Auburn University. PUSH was officially launched at an historic meeting of more than 200 university and multi-sector leaders at the United Nations in December 2014.

PUSH presidents agree to seek collaborative opportunities in the areas of teaching, research, outreach (domestic and international) and student engagement and to make progress in all those areas on their individual campuses. Some of the innovative and unique activities to date include: (1) PUSH Inventory & Mapping – a survey by all participants to identify gaps in research or outreach activities, sharable best practices, and establish a benchmark to measure longitudinal progress; (2) a committee structure to advance collective initiatives, such as an instrument to assess hunger levels on campuses; (3) an invitation to serve as leaders in the Global Open Data for Agriculture and Nutrition (GODAN) initiative. PUSH has been asked to serve with the governments of the US, UK, Kenya and the One Campaign in the planning of a heads-of-state summit in the fall of 2016 to advance food and nutrition security through the sharing of knowledge and the opening of data sets.

PUSH has been publically recognized as vitally needed and completely unique by leaders from the United Nations, the US government, the President of Honduras, leaders from APLU, IFPRI and GODAN. We are proud to have created such an innovative movement in just a little over a year. Please let us know if you need any additional information.

Best regards,

Paula Gray Hunker
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Operational Director Presidents United to Solve Hunger (PUSH)

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