

October 28, 2021

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

Dear Mike:

On behalf of the Campus Dining Office at Auburn University, we appreciate the opportunity to contribute towards the assessment of Auburn's sustainability efforts for STARS (Sustainability Tracking and Assessment Rating System). We feel that newly created Nutrition Resource Center will function as an important space in the center of the university's campus to promote awareness of basic need security and provide better access to nutritious and balanced meals to the food insecure while providing a space for students to seek out resources to enhance their health and wellness.

The Nutrition Resource Center is the primary location for Auburn Cares Campus Food Pantry (part of Student Affairs) and The Campus Kitchen at Auburn University. Both programs work to promote sustainability by focusing on the wellbeing of students and local residents who are food insecure, have an economic impact on the community by providing free nutritious meals and have an environmental impact by diverting food waste.

This project has been a collaboration with multiple campus stakeholders including: the Office of Sustainability, the Hunger Solutions Institute, Veterans Affairs, Student Government Association, Student Dietetics Association, Universities Fighting World Hunger, The Campus Kitchen at Auburn University, Culinary Sciences, Auburn Cares Campus Food Pantry, Student Counseling and Psychological Services, and Health Promotion and Wellness Services. Each of these programs works to enhance student wellness, and this partnership brings connections that leverages the efforts of all of the groups and helps disseminate information about the resources that each provides.

The Nutrition Resource Center is not only a facility that provides resources to students that may be in need but restructures the framework of empathy across the university. We are essentially working to diminish the stigma surrounding food security, while promoting education and further understanding of ways that each person can positively impact one another.

Glenn Loughridge

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Director of Campus Dining and Concessions

Alayna Priebe Project Coordinator

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