

Friday, February 17, 2012

To Whom It May Concern,

As a graduate intern at the Women's Center, one of my responsibilities is to provide leadership around the Student Food Pantry's operations. I work closely with other Women's Center staff members to determine how we can best serve students with regard to access, donations, and policy implementation.

Students rely on this resource for factors such as ever-increasing tuition costs, the inability to find part time jobs, exclusion from the Bridge Card program due to policy changes and diminished financial support from home because parents have lost jobs. The pantry is utilized by a wide range of students of varying demographics and serves as a valuable resource for individuals who experience food insecurity. Research indicates a relationship between inadequate nutrition and decreased academic performance. With this support in place, students are able to focus more energy on academic pursuits when such basic of a need as food is met.

Sincerely,

Kate Anderson MSW Intern

> Grand Valley State University Women's Center 1 Campus Drive KC 1201, Allendale, MI 49401 Phone: 616.331.2748 Email: womenctr@gvsu.edu