Hunger-free campuses invest in Virginia: support for H.B. 485, 583 & 629

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^{*} Presenting as a Virginia citizen and ally of college students, not representing any institution or party.

Prof. Dann Sklarew, Ph.D.

Full Professor in College of Science:

- PhD from George Mason University (2000)
- Joined F/T faculty in 2008

Dedicated ally for students' success:

- Taught 1,000+, advised 200+
- University awards for teaching excellence, mentoring excellence, business partnerships and career connections for students

Concerned that students w/o affordable food less likely to succeed in courses/careers.

Higher Ed. Pays Off...

College grads > earnings, < unemployment vs. those w/"some college," no degree:

- In 2020, college grads' unemployment 5.5% vs. 8.3% for those w/"some college" (at age 25+).
- College grads earned \$22,000 more than those w/"some college" (at age 25+).

Earning a college degree is a big boost to our economy and to individuals' financial liberty, autonomy and self-reliance.

Sources: BLS 2020; ACS 2019

Higher Ed. Pays Off... but many don't graduate.

In 2019,

Sources: BLS 2020; ACS 2019

- ~40% of Virginians age 25+ had at least Bachelor's degree
- ~20% 1.1 million people [age 25+] had only some college courses

Incomplete college equates to \$24 billion lost from our economy, even as businesses struggle to recruit skilled labor to fill vacancies.

Enrollment <u>down</u> 2.5% since 2019 at our public colleges and universities, as fewer low income learners enroll, while struggling to make ends meet.

Those that enroll face FUBAR tradeoffs/food insecurity: buy books or bread?

"Without access to food [...] and other basic needs, earning a college degree is difficult—if not impossible"

How are our community college students doing?

Fall 2020

1 in 3: Food Insecure

1 in 5 VERY LOW food security



HOPE4COLLEGE.COM





#RealCollege: Basic Needs Insecurity During the Ongoing Pandemic
Virginia Community College System Preliminary Results

In fall 2020, higher education was reeling from the coronavirus pandemic. Students and faculty across the country reported exceptional levels of stress and anxiety, and college <u>enrollment</u> was down. By the end of the term, more than 267,000 Americans <u>had died</u> from the pandemic. At the same time, the federal government pumped an unprecedented \$6± billion into student emergency aid via the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act.

To better understand the challenges facing Virginia Community College System (VCCS) students in fall 2020, we administered our well-established #RealCollege Survey at the system's 23 colleges from September to November. The survey assessed students' basic needs security and their well-being, as indicated by employment status, academic engagement, and mental health.

Across VCCS, the survey was distributed to more than 122,900 students and taken by 10,671 of them, yielding an estimated response rate of 9%.

THE SURVEY REVEALS

42%

of respondents were
HOUSING INSECURE
in the prior 12 months

Housing insecurity encompasses a broad set of challenges that prevent someone from having a safe, affordable, and consistent place to live including the inability to pay rent or move frequently.¹

10%

of respondents experienced HOMELESSNESS in the prior 12 months Homelessness means that a person does not have a fixed, regular, and adequate place to live. Students are considered homeless if they identified as experiencing homelessness or signs of homelessness (for instance, living in a shelter, temporanily with a relative, or in a space not meant for human habitation).



of respondents were FOOD INSECURE in the prior 30 days Food insecurity is the limited or uncertain availability of nutritionally adequate and safe food, or the ability to acquire such food in a socially acceptable manner. The most extreme form is often accompanied by physiological sensations of hunger.

Using the 18-item U.S. Department of Agriculture scale to assess food security, we found:

of respondents experienced VERY LOW food security

O 13% of respondents experienced LOW food security

of respondents experienced MARGINAL food security of respondents experienced HIGH food security²

Full survey results from Virginia Community College System will be published in June 2021.

To see the national 2020 #RealCollege Survey results, visit bit.ly/RCReport2021.

https://hope4college.com/rc2021-vccs

To learn more about the #RealCollege Survey research methodology and how you could field the survey at your institution, see The Hope Center's <u>Guide to Accessing Basic Needs Insecurity in Higher Education</u>
Numbers above are rounded to the nearest whole number and may not add to 100 due to rounding error.

How are our public university students doing?

2018-2021

30% of VT students 36% of Mason students food insecure.





Published large hunger survey





https://hope4college.com/rc2021-bni-during-the-ongoing-pandemic

Need outgrowing Mason's 1-room Patriot Pantry

unique student users

FY 2019/20	FY 2020/21	FY 2021/22
166	238	305 (Fall) +
		TBD (Spring)

Ideal for VA college students' food security

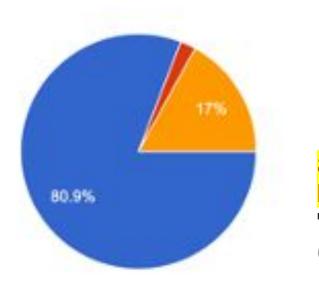
Hungry students aware, able to access & use food security resources:

- 1. **SNAP** eligibility, rules & enrollment.
- 2. Food banks, kitchens & pantries.
- 3. Donated **meal swipes** @ dining halls.
- 4. Recovered food, farming, fishing & foraging options?
- 5. Food security coordinators at all VA colleges & universities.
- 6. The Commonwealth & schools **systematically track & regularly report** on students' food insecurity demand & success in their hunger alleviation.

Relevant sectors & resources are mobilized to address college students' hunger.

"Hunger-Free Campus Grant Program" (HB 629)

Do you think the Hunger Free Bill is important and necessary for public colleges across Virginia? 188 responses





81% of 188 surveyed students deem hunger-free campus bill necessary.
"Hunger-Free Campus" HB 629
(tinyurl.com/2022hb629),

Source: EVPP 48

EVPP 480 students' Fall 2021 peer survey at George Mason University Please vote "yes" on H.B. 629.

Thank you very much!

College students' hunger across VA campuses

Help students unaware, unable to access, "unworthy" &/or stigmatized regarding use of these sorts of food security resources:

- 1. SNAP eligibility, rules & enrollment. HB 582
- 2. Food banks, kitchens, campus-based food pantries.
- 3. **Meal swipes** @ dining halls, donated by peers/others (only available at W&M).
- 4. **Recovered food, farming, fishing & foraging** opportunities (e.g., grocers, caterers, farms & cafeterias; food forests, gardens, Bay, hydroponic greenhouses & apiaries).

W/o dedicated **Food Security Coordinators** (FSCs), schools not systematically tracking students' food insecurity or progress towards "no hunger" on campus.

No systematic **examination of how** VA food systems, education, social services, private sector, etc. are/could be mobilized to support the food security of our college students.

Number and value of students not participating in SNAP but might qualify

Institution	# of students who might be eligible but not receiving benefits	Annual value of SNAP benefits not used (avg. of \$127 / month)
CNU	322	\$490,728
GMU	3,484	\$5,309,616
JMU	1,077	\$1,641,348
LU	447	\$681,228
NSU	1,407	\$2,144,268
ODU	3,366	\$5,129,784
RU	1,188	\$1,810,512
UMW	351	\$534,924
UVA	1,316	\$2,005,584
UVA - WISE	377	\$574,548
VCU	2,952	\$4,498,848
VMI	95	\$144,780
VSU	1,477	\$2,250,948
VT	1.941	\$2.958.084

Many VA university students unaware of their SNAP eligibility.

HB 582 (tinyurl.com/2022hb582)

big picture: There could be 60,000 students in Virginia who might qualify for snap but aren't receiving benefits

that's \$93 million of funding to reduce food insecurity virginia students may be giving up

Credited source: Tom Allison (VA SCHEV)

Please vote "yes" on H.B. 582.

Thank you very much!

Ideal for VA college students' food security

Potentially food insecure students are –

- identified upon and after enrollment,
- informed and using food security resources as needed,
- supported and tracked to ensure they remain food secure throughout their VA college and university studies.

HB 485

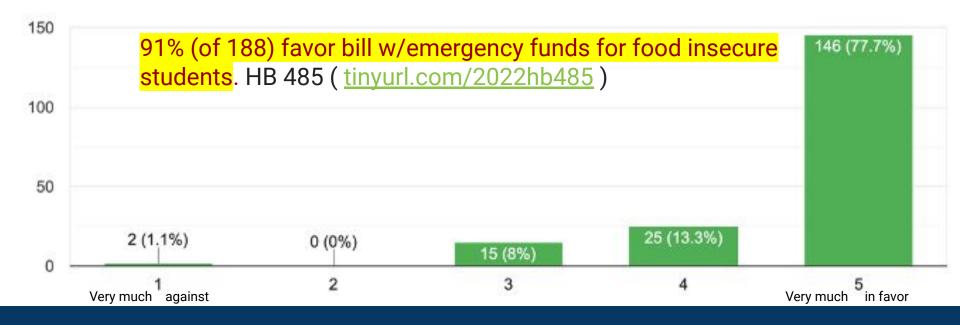
Students in crisis, screened and assessed as critically food insecure, promptly receive:

- emergency food to keep them functioning, with;
- guidance and support as needed to ensure resources & skills to feed themselves.

Food Security Coordinators ensures above succeeds.

If there was a bill passed in Virginia that provided emergency funds to students facing food insecurity, how likely would you be in favor?





Source: EVPP 480 students' Fall 2021 peer survey at George Mason University

Please vote "yes" on H.B. 485.

Thank you very much!