

### Introduction

What first started as two separate projects- an internship with Kindred Spirits Care Farm through UCLA's Center for Community Learning and research on UCLA's new undergraduate Food Studies minor - aligned into a single project about community building through food. I realized that many of the UCLA students who were interested in the Food Studies minor also showed interest in volunteering with Kindred Spirits and other food justice organizations. With the UC Global Food Initiative and Food Studies minor bringing forth this energy and network of food activists, I knew that I wanted to harness this network to find potential Kindred Spirits volunteers. However, I found my efforts to bring these individuals together for Kindred Spirits transforming into a much bigger collective impact - a formal student organization that would partner with different Los Angeles-based nonprofits that were working towards food justice.



### Project Goals

#### Initial Goals

1. Recruit at least five long-term UCLA students to volunteer with nonprofit Kindred Spirits Care Farm.
2. Research and find at least 15 faculty members and classes for UCLA's new undergraduate Food Studies minor during Fall Quarter.

#### Added Goals

3. Have greater representation of undergraduate students within the Eat Well Pod of UCLA's Healthy Campus Initiative.
4. Establish formal student coalition for food activists to network and make a collective impact on food justice issues with nonprofits in Los Angeles.

### Definitions

- *Healthy Campus Initiative*: "a campus wide effort to draw upon UCLA's world-renowned research and teaching, to find new and innovative ways to promote healthy living on the UCLA campus, and to share that education and research with other communities..." (Slusser, 2015, p. 1).
- *Collective impact*: "the commitment of a group of important actors from different sectors to a common agenda for solving a specific social problem" (Kania and Kramer, 2011, p. 36).

## Fellowship Timeline

### FALL

#### Kindred Spirits and Food Studies Minor

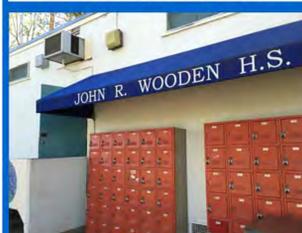
Begun internship with Kindred Spirits Care Farm and research for Food Studies minor

Network with UCLA faculty



### WINTER

#### FOOD JUSTICE & EXPERIENTIAL EDUCATION



#### Forming the Connections

Networked with UCLA undergraduates at GFI-funded Food Justice and Experiential Education workshop and through Center for Community Learning.

Introduced students to Kindred Spirits

### SPRING

#### Formalize Community of Food Activists

Register Undergraduate Food Network (UFN) as student club.

Partner with Community Service Commission and determine next year's UFN board



### SUMMER



### Community Building Outcomes

- Brought in and supervised a total of 13 UCLA students to volunteer at Kindred Spirits Care Farm. Three of the students have shown interest in volunteering again in the future.
- For Food Studies minor, researched and compiled list of 27 UCLA faculty members whose work revolves around food and classes about food.
- With eleven other UCLA students, co-founded the Undergraduate Food Network (UFN), which intends to connect undergraduate student food activists to existing campus networks and organizations working towards food justice.



### Future Goals with UFN

1. Maintain consistent undergraduate presence at Healthy Campus Initiative's Eat Well Pod meetings, with at least two undergraduate representatives at each monthly meeting.
2. Facilitate networking between students, faculty, and community leaders who are working on issues surrounding food in and around UCLA with weekly or bi-weekly UFN meetings and quarterly events.
3. Connect student food activists to at least three nonprofit organizations, while sustaining those relationships throughout the year.

### Literature Cited

- Slusser, W. (2015). *UCLA Healthy Campus Initiative 2014-15 Progress Report*. Los Angeles, CA: UCLA Healthy Campus Initiative.
- Kania, J. and Kramer, M. (2011). "Collective Impact." In *Stanford Social Innovation*, Winter 2011, 36-41.

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