

The Global Food Initiative Campus Collaborative Statement of Purpose

Overview: The Global Food Initiative (GFI) Advisory Team has worked to envision an evolved model of the Global Food Initiative (GFI 2.0). As part of this process, the Advisory Team developed a Statement of Purpose in order to connect GFI's commitment to creating a focal point on each campus to collaborate and build awareness for campus efforts related to food system and sustainability research projects. The GFI Campus Collaborative Statement of Purpose will establish the intention and objective for creating a central all-inclusive Campus Collaborative framework for students, staff and faculty to support joint projects, research and strategies focused on furthering the GFI mission. Through the Campus Collaborative model, the GFI can support elevating the research of each campus and also provide a networking opportunity across campuses that is not readily available through traditional channels. Each Campus Collaborative will be spearheaded by a campus lead who is a researcher and/or faculty member encouraged to connect with existing on and off campus research pathways and assets. Although each Collaborative is expected to develop their own sustainability plan appropriate to their own campus, the GFI Advisory Team will continue to serve as an advisory body to connect campuses and maintain the integrity of the GFI mission on a systemwide level.

Statement of Purpose

By design, the Campus Collaboratives will help to further solidify the GFI's vision and purpose, build campus community and draw in new partners to strengthen efforts, and guide work in and beyond 2020 in the food systems/health space. Each Campus Collaborative will commit to a "bottoms-up" approach that is research driven while working in partnership within their campus community. Additionally, Collaboratives are encouraged to engage with other UC campuses and colleagues from the Division of Agriculture and Natural Resources and the UC National Laboratories to build upon their respective research or project assets and cultivate a UC community of students, staff and faculty focused on research in food security, health and agricultural sustainability.

GFI Vision

The Global Food Initiative aligns the university's research, education, outreach and operations in a sustained effort to develop, demonstrate and share solutions—throughout California, the United States and the world—for equitable food access, health and sustainability.

GFI Campus Collaborative Goal

GFI 2.0 will augment campus research efforts by supporting the creation of a Collaborative on each campus along with continued systemwide and external networking that is not available through traditional campus channels. The goal is to create greater campus ownership of the GFI while elevating the research work in a more inclusive and collaborative approach. This will include but is not limited to having a lead researcher on each campus who would utilize virtual or physical infrastructure to champion the Campus Collaborative in efforts to elevate relationships within and between the UC

System. Additionally, the Advisory Team is also proposing intentional alignment on a more global level by linking the GFI to the United Nations Sustainable Development Agenda (UNSDA). In many ways GFI projects are already aligned with tenets of the UNSDA; however, the GFI proposes tying the initiative's objectives in a more targeted way to the goals of the UNSDA's agenda to re-emphasize the "global" in UC's Global Food Initiative.

GFI Collaborative Call to Action

The next step is to identify campus leads who are researchers in the food systems/health space to champion the Campus Collaborative and establish a network building upon the respective assets of each campus and connecting that network systemwide. Researcher expertise at the Division of Agriculture and Natural Resources and the UC National Laboratories could be leveraged to collaborate with one or more Campus Collaboratives depending on geographic proximity and/or research focus. Existing GFI project leads and students receiving a campus GFI Fellowship would become part of and work with their respective Campus Collaborative. Ideally leads from GFI initiated projects such as UC Systemwide Basic Needs Committee efforts, Healthy Campus Network projects, and/or the Carbon Neutrality Initiative could also participate as part of the Campus Collaborative. This would support more sustainable growth of the GFI by developing campus ownership and increasing faculty, researcher and student interest and engagement. Each campus will receive \$25,000 in the 2019-2020 academic year to facilitate developing their Collaborative. Although the development of the Campus Collaborative may be unique to each individual campus, efforts should be focused toward the creation of a self-sufficient and self-sustaining GFI campus entity that will continue to work with the other Campus Collaboratives to further the GFI mission as envisioned by the GFI Advisory team.

References:

[Health and Well-being in Higher Education: A Commitment to Student Success](#)