



THE GROCERY CHALLENGE

SUMMARY

Food access is a big topic; this project will continue to focus on providing affordability, access, and food literacy for current students and the community.

DESCRIPTION

Food Insecurity and limited food access disproportionately affect the Near West Side and campus community. This inequity in access is a priority of Marquette University and the Near West Side Partners. A recent campus climate report completed for Marquette indicated that over 500 of the respondents were food insecure at some point during their time at the college. The recent launch of Sendik's on campus and a farmers market in the Near West Side help to fulfill one prong of the Grocery Challenge mission; however, this campus-wide challenge will continue to focus on exploring innovative ideas to increase access.



Scan QR Code for
www.mu.edu/innovation/grocery-challenge.php

MILESTONES

August - September 2017

Farmers Market piloted

October 2017

Establish Farmers Market Board with MU Students

Oct. - Dec. 2017

Continue discussions on food access; build team of students to continue to plan, organize and research; research food pantries at other universities

Spring 2018

Consider possible food options to prototype on or near campus

ABOUT OUR TEAM

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The subject of grocery and food are two of the most discussed on campus. In Spring of 2017 a challenge was issued to think differently about how more people in the Marquette community could have access to healthy food. This resulted in a number of pitches and ideas generated. Ultimately, Sendik's was announced and a farmers market emerged; but there was a recognition that more needs to be done. A committed group of students and community members have expressed continued interest in bring more awareness to campus via discussions, speakers and possible solutions/pilots of new programs.

BEYOND BOUNDARIES

The Grocery Challenge and proposed seed funds fit in with Marquette's strategic plan in two key areas 1) pursuit of academic excellence and 2) social responsibility for community engagement. First, Marquette is committed to increasing the high-impact learning opportunities available to students. Spring semester (2017) 339 faculty, staff, and students were part of the challenge by attending an event, incorporating in their class, or pitching an idea. Since then, students have continue to come forward with ideas and an appetite for more collaboration and discussion. This project also positions Marquette as a pivotal resource for addressing key community issues and as a convener for neighborhood/campus concerns.