Exploring strategies to enhance UGA's activities and commitment to the World Food Day

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Introduction

The World Food Day event aims to support the alleviation of world-wide hunger, malnutrition and poverty through increased awareness, understanding, support, education, advocacy, and informed, year-round actions. A key response to this effort is a three-hour satellite teleconference organized by the U.S. National Committee for World Food Day, presenting every year a conversation with an international leader in the fight against hunger and with cameo appearances from other participants in the battle. The teleconference is aired from Washington DC, and seen by more than a thousand sites in the U.S. and throughout the world.

The University of Georgia has participated in the teleconference for the last four years. There is now an interest to expand the university's involvement with the World Food Day by supporting it with additional year-round and related interdisciplinary activities.

Purpose of the poster

The purpose of this poster is to schematically describe the steps taken at the University of Georgia to further World Food Day involvement, the strategies proposed, the actions taken to date, and the barriers and support found in the process.

Major points or information to be shared

The poster will describe the planning process and the actions taken, and will discuss some of the additional strategies proposed. These include developing Freshman and Honors seminars on world food issues, proposing a new interdisciplinary course on development, facilitating student projects, preparing case studies, materials, and stand-alone teaching units, and organizing student think tanks across the university. The poster will also explain some of the dynamics of the process, discussing barriers and support encountered.
Conclusions

The poster provides ideas, information, and tools that may aid other campuses to start participation or enhance their involvement in efforts supporting World Food Day.

Educational importance

Internationalizing higher education academic programs and redesigning the student experience may help in producing graduates get involved in the fight against worldwide poverty, hunger, and malnutrition. Participating in and organizing World Food Day activities is one internationalization option that is worth exploring, for it has raised awareness on many campuses, and can be tailored to the specific needs of most communities, universities, faculties, and students.