

BUDGET PROPOSAL CONTACT INFORMATION

Department Name: Center for Student Involvement

Create Date: 10/31/2023

Due Date: 11/10/2023

Submitter Name: Clare Tupper

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Department Head Approval: ❌

Department Head: Conor Leary

Requested Amount: **\$6,586**

Departmental Information

SPECIAL ALLOCATIONS - CRITERIA

The minimum wage increase to \$16.28 in Washington state was not known until after the annual budget process therefore we could not request the amount now needed to meet minimum wage requirements. We are requesting funds to increase two student employees' wages to meet these minimum requirements beginning January 1st as well as to increase their weekly hours to 10hr and 15hr/week to not only return to our original hours of operation but better fit the students' and the garden's needs. The limited hours are proving to be difficult for our students to fully complete the tasks that need to be done in the garden without feeling rushed which is noted in a student testimony.

We would also like to purchase tomato and potato starts. We will need the annual budget for all other seeds, but tomatoes and potatoes need to be purchased separately because they do not come in seed form. During the annual allocation process we believed we could get tomato starts for free from a community partner but this is no longer garenteed.

STUDENT UTILIZATION

By providing the funds to meet the minimum wage requirements, we can continue providing two student positions. With two student employees, not only does this benefit the students who need and enjoy this job, but it allows the Giving Garden to continue to provide fresh produce to the Pantry. As of 11/09/23 the Giving Garden has donated 222lbs of produce to students through the Pantry, Court 17 and the CSI, and 407lbs in total. The student employees also assist with volunteer events, weekly volunteer hours, and class/community visits to the garden. Increasing student hours will allow for more flexibility with group visits to the garden and allow our team to focus on more than just the basic garden requirements. We can get more special projects done and increase our educational social media posts. Both Giving Garden Assistants have provided testimonies later attached explaining the need for more hours for their positions.

Tomatoes and potatoes are some of the most popular items we grow. Even with a very large tomato harvest this year, the food was always taken. We would like to provide these productive and popular items to students again this year.

SPECIAL ALLOCATIONS - STATEMENT OF ASSURANCES

These funds will be allocated to our wages budget and implemented January 1st as required by law. We create a new schedule each quarter depending on the student's availability so beginning Winter quarter, the students shifts will reflect these additional hours. Once the funds are acquired both students will be given more responsibilities such as focusing more attention to the transformation of our native plant walk and creating educational videos for our social media, highlighting gardening and cooking tips so that students are more easily able to take what they learned from the garden and practice it at home or have a better understanding of how to use the produce we grow. Once Spring Quarter is here, additional hours will allow the students to spend more time in the garden in a way that will allow us to produce an even greater harvest.

SERVICE BENEFITS TO STUDENTS

According to a 2013 study by UW Tacoma Faculty Dr. Christine Stevens, one-third of students at UW Tacoma are food insecure and according to the National Health Assessment this number has risen to 46% of students in 2023. These statistics align with national studies (Goldrick-Rab, Sara, et al. Still Hungry and Homeless in College. Wisconsin Hope Lab. 2018) on food insecurity and show a need to assist our students.

The Giving Garden is already addressing this need by providing fresh produce to The Pantry. Fresh food and produce are a common request of students accessing The Pantry, according to their surveys. In 2021 the garden donated over 400 pounds of produce, and we are projected to surpass this number in 2023.

The immediate benefit to students participating in the Giving Garden is access to fresh nutritious food that they grow and a sense of service in supporting their fellow students. Beyond that, they have an outlet to be in nature and interact with the natural world without having to leave campus. Exposure to nature and fresh air has been shown to reduce stress and anxiety which is critical for busy students trying to balance their studies, work, and life. (Capaldi C, Dopko RL, Zelenski J. Frontiers in Psychology. 2014).

The Giving Garden also starts a career of community leadership with students, helping them learn about food security, equity, and the possibilities of growing your own food, even in an urban environment. The Giving Garden's harvests benefit every student who uses The Pantry and has access to fresh produce. Without ever attending an event or visiting the garden itself, students are impacted by what we do. The garden also provides opportunities for students to work on campus in a leadership capacity while aligning them within their community. It allows the students to engage in a professional setting while giving them tools and connections for their future. Courses that utilize the Giving Garden also give an opportunity for students to step foot outside of the classroom, allowing them to learn through a hands-on approach while connecting amongst their peers and building their community. The garden is becoming more and more intertwined with the campus through its partnerships with The Pantry, The Center for Student Involvement, Professional Development Center, faculty and their curriculum, and Facilities Services. Access is a core value of the University of Washington Tacoma and the Giving Garden serves this value through access to food, education, community, green space, and student growth.

Staff Budget Requests

Category	Details	Amount Requested
Student Staff ³	Increase wages to meet Washington States minimum wage requirements and increase hours to 15hr/wk E001	
	Student Staff Wages:	\$3,705
	Fringe @ 21.2%:	\$785
Student Staff ³	Increase wages to meet Washington States minimum wage requirements and increase hours to 10hr/wk for all quarters E002	
	Student Staff Wages:	\$1,589
	Fringe @ 21.2%:	\$337
PERSONNEL TOTAL:		\$6,416

Other Budget Requests

Category	Details	Amount Requested
Non-Food Supplies & Materials	20 Tomato starts at \$6 https://www.homedepot.com/b/Outdoors-Garden-Center-Outdoor-Plants-Edible-Garden-Vegetable-Plants/Tomato-Plant/N-5yc1vZc8r4Z1z1bqcz S001	\$120
	two variety of potato at \$25 https://www.johnnyseeds.com/vegetables/potatoes/yukon-gold-seed-potatoes-532.html S002	\$50
SUPPLEMENTAL TOTAL:		\$170

PERSONNEL TOTAL:	\$6,416
SUPPLEMENTAL TOTAL:	\$170
COMPLETE PROPOSAL TOTAL:	\$6,586

Supplemental Documents



VICTORIA SIMS TESTIMONY

Student employee testimony on the need for increased hours.



JENNIFER HUNT TESTIMONY

Student employee testimony on the need for increased hours.