



# A College Education Provides a Lifetime of Value

## Establishing Food Security

On a recent morning, a group of University of California, Riverside (UCR) students neatly stacked shelves, filling them with beans, canned vegetables, loaves of bread, and hygiene products.

They were volunteering at the campus food pantry, R’Pantry. The space started as an idea nearly five years ago and has evolved into a successful cross-campus collaboration between multiple departments and involves staff, faculty, and undergraduate and graduate students.

R’Pantry is primarily supported by the UC-led Global Food Initiative (GFI), which mandates that all 10 University of California campuses regularly support students in accessing nutritious food on and off campus in an effort to alleviate food



Students from Swipe Out Hunger volunteer at R’Pantry.



University of California  
Riverside, CA

Photo courtesy of the University of California, Riverside.

UCR’s community garden, known as R’Garden, supplies the pantry with fruits and vegetables. R’Garden has 1.5 acres exclusively dedicated to producing organic seasonal vegetables for R’Pantry. An additional private

donations in exchange for parking ticket fee reductions.

Campus student groups have similarly stepped up to help. Swipe Out Hunger, a club made up of undergraduate volunteers that collect unused meal plan money from students at the end of each quarter, supports R’Pantry with donations.

“It’s great to see students taking care of their own; we’re just here supporting,” said Bob Getman, general manager of Scotty’s C Stores within Dining, Hospitality, and Retail Services. “These students think outside the box and they force us to think outside the box as well.”

“Our campus culture of caring and sharing, as demonstrated through our many initiatives to eliminate food insecurity, serves to help ensure that all our students are alert and motivated to perform at their very best,” said Ron Coley, vice chancellor of business and administrative services. \*

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insecurity. UC surveys found that 62 percent of UCR undergraduate students classified themselves as food insecure, compared to 42 percent systemwide. The statistics prompted an immediate response from the UCR campus community. R’Pantry served a total of 1,525 registered students in a recent fall quarter and 1,699 in a recent winter quarter.

gift has supplied the pantry with fresh produce every week.

Pantry donations come from across campus as well. The Dining Services team saves unexpired cold sandwiches, salads, and kosher meals that haven’t been sold. UCR’s Transportation and Parking Services department collected more than 2,000 pounds of food with an initiative that asked for nonperishable