



PRESIDENTS UNITED TO SOLVE HUNGER

Educating and Mobilizing Students to Build a Zero Hunger World

More than 30 university leaders gathered in February 2014 to consider how the teaching, research, outreach, and student engagement activities of their respective institutions could make a united contribution to the global effort towards achieving a Zero Hunger World. Hosted by Auburn's Hunger Solutions Institute, in partnership with the Association of Public and Land-grant Universities (APLU) and the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), the meeting led to a consensus statement called the Presidents' Commitment to Food and Nutrition Security.

Building Momentum

After a launch in the historic ECOSOC Chamber in the United Nations in December 2014 and an operational meeting in Washington DC in June 2015, this commitment has now been signed by nearly 80 university presidents from 6 continents. While not prescriptive, the Commitment Statement includes an Action Plan, outlining activities where universities can work collectively to share knowledge, information and best practices in the areas of:

- **Teaching** – curriculum courses related to addressing hunger and malnutrition
- **Research** – discovery and innovation in these critical areas
- **Outreach** – extension and university activities off-campus to improve lives in communities
- **Student engagement** – launching and supporting groups and activities that increase student awareness about hunger and malnutrition and support advocacy and mobilization activities

PUSH Goals

The primary goal is to increase the impact of universities in the multi-sector community working towards a zero hunger world by identifying and promoting collective opportunities. Activities already underway include:

- 1. Creating critical mass** – Recruitment of signatories of the Presidents' Commitment to Food and Nutrition Security has gained momentum since the document was created in late 2014. As of June 2015 nearly 80 universities in 6 continents have signed the Commitment. This includes public large land-grants, small private liberal arts colleges, traditionally black universities, faith-based institutions and community colleges.
- 2. PUSH Points** – To expedite communications and initiate activities on each campus each president has been asked to assign a senior leader to be the PUSH Point at their campus. The PUSH Points will be united through an online community of practice.
- 3. Inventory and Mapping** – The first PUSH activity is the creation of an inventory and mapping of activities on each campus in the areas of teaching, research, outreach and student engagement. The data points to create the first benchmark survey was shared at the June operational meeting with the goal of launching the survey in the final quarter of 2015.



HUNGER CAN BE ELIMINATED IN OUR LIFETIMES