

## SCC Student Food Pantry Proposal

*Food does not simply recharge a person's batteries –  
it shapes their life.  
What greater thing can you do for someone  
than feed them?*

Sarah Holm, Organic farmer

### Facts and Stats for South Central College

The number of enrolled students at South Central College (SCC) who meet the federal low income criteria experienced huge growth from 2005–2009 (65%) and has since settled in at a steady percentage of approximately 20% of the student body. Figure 1 shows the percentage of low-income students from FY2012–2014. Similar to overall eligibility trends, the number of students (of those reporting both family size and income) has decreased slightly over the past three years.

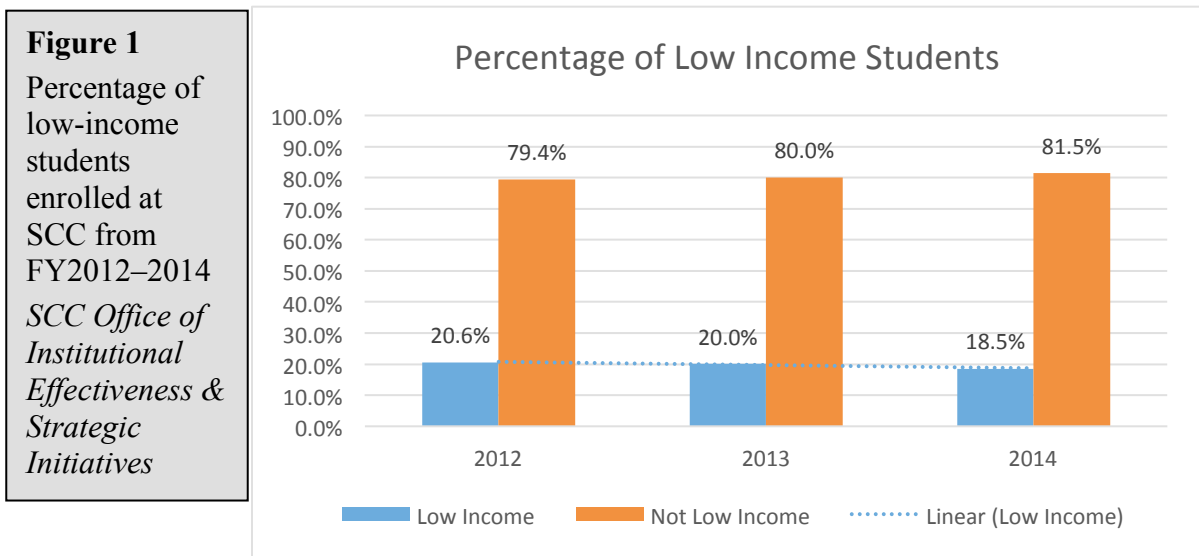


TABLE 2. SCC LOW INCOME STUDENTS

Academic Fiscal Year	Number of Low Income Students	Total Enrollment	Percentage of Student Body
2012	1,259	6,114	79.4%
2013	1,125	5,621	80.0%
2014	1,105	5,477	81.5%

In addition, as state funding for higher education continues to decrease and tuition rates and fees continue to rise, the financial burden for today’s students and their families also increases. As a result, food pantries are becoming a normal service to students as they navigate college. Although the pantries do not address the overarching challenge of rising tuition and housing costs, SCC’s financial aid office has worked diligently to provide incoming students with the best financial aid package possible. During 2013–2014, 9,905 students received \$20,739,371 in need-based aid. Table 3 below identifies the individual awards, the award amount, and the number of students who received each award.

TABLE 3. INSTITUTIONAL AID AWARDED (2013–2014)

	Amount Awarded	Number of Students
Federal Pell Grant	\$6,302,797	1,956
Federal SEOG Grant	\$70,383	237
Minnesota State Grant	\$1,327,872	1,724
Child Care	\$134,575	84
Academic Competitive Grant	\$0	0
Federal Work Study	\$120,919	67
Minnesota Work Study	\$252,250	140
Federal Stafford Loan	\$5,950,755	2,735
Unsubsidized Fed Stafford	\$6,209,459	2,892
Parent Loan Program	\$29,510	8
Self-Loan	\$104,259	23
Alternate Loan	\$236,645	39
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$20,739,371</b>	<b>9,905</b>

*SCC Financial Aid Office*

## Food Pantry Proposal/Initiative

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In order to better support a physiological need of our students –food - we are proposing the following food pantry initiative. The purpose of this multidimensional initiative is to provide food to SCC low-income students struggling to meet the expenses of attending college and maintaining proper nutrition.

**Phase One:** Partner with local grocery providers to obtain non-perishable items to stock the food pantry. Such donations will be considered as in-kind donations. It is very important to identify a location for a food pantry on both campuses. Appendix A is a draft letter that can be sent to local grocery stores with the support of each campus Foundation. Appendix B is a schedule for the pantry and Appendix C is a draft in-take form that students must complete when visiting the pantry.

**Phase Two:** Collaborate with Brad Schloesser, Dean of Agriculture, Heidi Wyn, Director of Student Life, Nicole Hamilton, Associate Director of Student Life, Student Clubs, and Student Senate to establish a Cultural Garden on the North Mankato and Faribault campus. This Cultural Garden would ideally consist of herbs, spices, and food from various cultures that are represented in our student demographics.

SCC students will have the opportunity to donate cultural herbs, spices, and food/seeds to plant in the garden, in addition to providing care instructions. The Agriculture department would provide direction on how to prepare the soil and properly plant and label all items in the garden. Student clubs and volunteers will be responsible for watering and caring for the garden. Faculty and staff will become partners in caring for the garden by weeding and picking the items from the garden. The produce from the garden will be utilized in a few ways:



**Phase Three:** Pursue a federal grant that will allow SCC to establish a comprehensive Health Literacy program that will enable individuals to obtain, process, and understand basic health information and services needed to make healthy decisions. SCC's goal is bridge the SCC Student Food Pantry, the Cultural Garden, and cooking classes into a Health Literacy program. The program will focus on educating individuals how to choose appropriate items to either grow or purchase then how to prepare meals that are healthy, nutritious, and inexpensive. Maintaining a healthy lifestyle is crucial to our physical, physiological, emotional, and social development which helps us to be open to learning and productive employees.

## Campus Locations

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Both the Faribault and North Mankato food pantry locations will be supervised and available to students during specific hours Monday – Friday. Possible locations for both campuses include:

- Faribault: Once CBI moves upstairs, the food pantry can be located in this space.
- North Mankato: An office located across from the kitchen area.
- The locations for the cultural garden would need to be determined by administration.

## Funding Opportunities

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- \$5000 from Brad Schloesser
- The City of Mankato offered SCC a plot of land
- **Department of Health and Human Services:** <http://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/pa-files/PAR-13-132.html>
- **Department of Health and Human Services/National Institutes of Health:** <http://www.grants.gov/web/grants/search-grants.html>

## Area Food Pantries

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### **Faribault Area Food Shelf**

200 Western Avenue  
Faribault, MN - 55021  
(507) 334-2137

### **Faribault Diversity Coalition Welcome Center**

24 Division St W  
Faribault, MN – 55021  
(507) 333-5036

### **Northfield Community Action Center Food Shelf**

1651 Jefferson Parkway  
Northfield, MN - 55057  
507-664-3550

### **Echo Food Shelf**

1014 S Front  
Mankato, MN - 56001  
(507) 345-7477

### **Salvation Army Food Shelf Mankato**

700 S Riverfront Drive  
Mankato, MN - 56001  
(507) 345-7840

## Resources

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<http://www.globalissues.org/article/26/poverty-facts-and-stats>

[http://www.nifa.usda.gov/funding/rfas/pdfs/fy2015\\_afri\\_foundational.pdf](http://www.nifa.usda.gov/funding/rfas/pdfs/fy2015_afri_foundational.pdf)

<http://www.stateofworkingamerica.org/fact-sheets/poverty/>

<http://www.aecf.org/m/resourcedoc/aecf-2014kidscountdatabook-2014.pdf#page=6>

SCC TRIO Grant Proposal (Institutional Research Office)

A How to Manual: <http://oregonfoodbank.org/Our-Work/Partner-With-Us/New-Agency-Kit/~media/Files/So%20You%20Want%20to%20Start%20a%20Campus%20Food%20Pantry.pdf.pdf>

Durham Tech Harvest Food Pantry: <http://www.durhamtech.edu/service/pantry.htm>

Michigan State University Food Bank: <http://foodbank.msu.edu/>

Huffington Post Article: [http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2014/03/15/food-pantries-college\\_n\\_4971139.html](http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2014/03/15/food-pantries-college_n_4971139.html)

Grand Rapids Community College Food Pantry:

<http://www.grcc.edu/studentlife/servicesandprograms/studentfoodpantry>