

West Virginia University  
The Student Assembly - Student Government Association  
Assembly Proclamation: AP-2025-02-01  
**AN ASSEMBLY PROCLAMATION TO EXPRESS SUPPORT FOR THE  
RACK: WVU STUDENT FOOD PANTRY TO HELP ADDRESS FOOD  
INSECURITY**

<b>Short Title:</b>	<b>The Rack Support</b>
<b>Author(s):</b>	<b>Shelby Davis, Senator</b>
<b>Sponsor(s):</b>	<b>Tris Silva, College Senator (Eberly) Molly Meeker, Senator Michael Mugnano, College Senator (Chambers) Gabriella Selders, College Senator (HSC) Andrew O'Neal, Senator Colin Street, Senator Rozaireo Jones, College Senator (Reed) Ella Mehring, College Senator (CAHS) Olivia E. Robinson, College Senator (Eberly) Maxwell Jones, Senator Matthew Olivero, President Pro Tempore Peyton Bielinski, College Senator (CAHS) Andrew Indomenico, Senator Alex Olivero, Senator</b>
<b>Contributor(s):</b>	<b>Logan Pierce, Legislative Affairs Officer</b>
<b>Committee Endorsement:</b>	<b>Community and Government Relations (CGR)</b>
<b>First Reading Date:</b>	<b>2/5/2025</b>
<b>Second Reading Date:</b>	<b>N/A-Intent to Fast-Track</b>
<b>Date of Approval:</b>	<b>02/05/2025</b>
<b>Presidential Signature:</b>	

**Whereas**, the West Virginia University mission statement reads that, "As a land-grant institution, the faculty, staff and students at West Virginia University commit to creating a diverse and inclusive culture that advances education, healthcare and prosperity for all by providing access and opportunity<sup>1</sup>;" and,

**Whereas**, the West Virginia University Student Government Association (SGA) vision statement reads that, "To be a Student Government Association that serves the students, West Virginia University, and the state of West Virginia by;

...creating a campus that can accommodate everyone... fostering healthy lifestyles, and developing innovative partnerships with students, faculty, staff and other key stakeholders<sup>2</sup>;" and,

**Whereas**, The Rack: WVU Student Food Pantry vision statement reads that, "The Rack will address University food insecurity needs and provide comprehensive food insecurity education to the WVU Community<sup>3</sup>;" and,

**Whereas**, from 2021–2022 to 2022–2023 there was an 53.5% increase in Rack intake form submissions which highlights the rapid growth in demand for services<sup>4</sup>; and,

**Whereas**, from 2022–2023 to 2023–2024 intake form submissions remained consistently high, indicating a sustained need for resources<sup>5</sup>; and,

**Whereas**, from January 2023 to January 2025, over 15% of students who chose to utilize the Rack and Snack Rack locations across campus visited more than one location<sup>6</sup>; and,

**Whereas**, a diverse population of students use The Rack such as first-generation students, veterans, parents/caregivers, students at all levels of higher education, and multiple backgrounds; and,

**Whereas**, food insecurity remains a critical challenge for college students across the state, region, and country, affecting academic performance, mental health, and overall

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.wvu.edu/about-wvu/mission>

<sup>2</sup> <https://sga.wvu.edu/about>

<sup>3</sup> <https://studentengagement.wvu.edu/the-rack-student-food-pantry>

<sup>4</sup> Appendix A

<sup>5</sup> Appendix A

<sup>6</sup> Appendix A

well-being; and,

**Whereas**, in 2019, WISH4Campus, a cross-sectional survey to assess the prevalence of food insecurity among young adults attending a higher education institution administered on 7 higher education campuses in the Appalachian and Southern regions of the United States, found that from over 12,000 young adults attending one of the 7 participating higher education institutions 36.6% of students reporting from West Virginia University were food insecure<sup>7</sup>; and,

**Whereas**, nearly 50% of WVU students reported some level of food insecurity in the Fall 2023 National College Health Assessment Survey<sup>8</sup>; and,

**Whereas**, among food-insecure college students, 43.8% completed their college degree compared with 68.1% of food-secure college students<sup>9</sup>; and,

**Whereas**, food-insecure students are more likely than food-secure students to report a lower GPA (2.0-2.49) versus a higher GPA (3.5-4.0)<sup>10</sup>; and,

**Whereas**, among college students in Georgia who participated in a two-year-long survey, those who experienced food insecurity were associated with a 1.83-point increase in depression, a 3.68-point increase in anxiety, and a 2.16-point decrease in hope<sup>11</sup>; and,

**Whereas**, by reducing food insecurity levels, students would experience improved concentration/mental health, higher retention rates, and better academic outcomes; and,

***Therefore, be it proclaimed by the Student Assembly of West Virginia University:***

**Section 1:** That the Student Government Association expresses its deep support for the services and resources provided by all WVU Student Food Pantry locations, and;

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<sup>7</sup> <https://melissa-olfert.davis.wvu.edu/research-projects/wish4campus>

<sup>8</sup> <https://wvutoday.wvu.edu/stories/2024/02/26/wvu-works-to-address-food-insecurity-among-students-with-expansion-of-essential-pantry-services>

<sup>9</sup> <https://www.cambridge.org/core/journals/public-health-nutrition/article/effect-of-food-insecurity-during-college-on-graduation-and-type-of-degree-attained-evidence-from-a-nationally-representative-longitudinal-survey/4048E0A71FB2CB5B6B7C984AC1AE5F9E>

<sup>10</sup> <https://www.tandfonline.com/doi/abs/10.1080/10668926.2013.850758>

<sup>11</sup> <https://pmc.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/articles/PMC6366643/#tab3>

**Section 2:** That the Student Government Association encourages the expansion of resources and services of the WVU Student Food Pantries in any capacity, and;

**Section 3:** Upon passage and approval, this legislation shall be forwarded to:

**Mandates:**

G. Corey Farris, Dean of Students

Dr. Thanh Le, Director, Student Engagement and Leadership (Advisor)

University President Gordon E. Gee

Daily Athenaeum

Charlie Long, Student Body President

Abigail Browning, Student Body Vice President

Haley Orcutt, Executive Secretary

Sydni Vega, Program Assistant, Student Engagement and Leadership

Travis Mollohan, Associate Vice President, Government Relations and Collaboration

Daniel Kimble, Director of State Relations and Senior Advisor

## APPENDIX A – 2021-2024 THE RACK: WVU STUDENT FOOD PANTRY DATA

### Intake Form Submissions:

- June 2021 – May 2022: 563 Forms
- June 2022 – May 2023: 1,051 Forms
- June 2023 – May 2024: 1,035 Forms
- June 2024 – January 2025: 718 Forms (As of January 22, 2025)

### Demographics:

#### June 2021 – May 2022

##### Race

- White: 282
- Hispanic/Latino: 56
- African American/Black: 36
- Indian: 28
- Asian and Pacific American Islander: 90
- Middle Eastern: 18
- Bi or Multi-Racial: 5
- Other: 38

##### Gender

- Female: 316
- Male: 235
- Nonbinary: 12

##### Student Status

- Undergraduate: 648
- Graduate: 262
- Professional: 11
- Not Seeking a Degree: 6

Veteran: 10

## June 2022 – May 2023

First Generation: 329

### Student Status

- Undergraduate: 648
- Graduate: 262
- Doctorate: 135
- Not Seeking a Degree: 6

### Race

- Hispanic or Latino/a/x: 25
- White: 634
- Black or African American: 71
- Asian or Asian American: 209
- Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander Native: 2
- Middle Eastern/North African (MENA) or Arab origin: 28
- Biracial or Multiracial: 33
- Other: 43

### Gender

- Male: 406
- Female: 605
- Nonbinary: 35
- Other: 5

Veteran: 20

## June 2023 – May 2024

### Gender

- Female: 595
- Male: 397
- Transgender/Gender Non-Conforming: 39

### Age

- 18-20 years: 344
- 21-24 years: 359
- 25-29 years: 203
- 30+ years: 125

International: 356

### Race

- American Indian or Native Alaskan: 5
- Asian or Asian American: 211
- Black or African American: 76
- Hispanic or Latino/a/x: 76
- Middle Eastern/North African (MENA) or Arab origin: 38
- Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander Native: 3
- White: 577
- Biracial or Multiracial: 34
- Identity Not Listed: 11

### Student Status

- 1st-year undergraduate: 113
- 2nd-year undergraduate: 148
- 3rd-year undergraduate: 165
- 4th-year undergraduate: 133
- 5th-year or more undergraduate: 30
- Master's Level: 192
- Doctorate: 235
- Not Seeking a Degree: 6
- Other: 9

Veteran: 13

Parent or Primary Caregiver: 30

First Generation: 407

Visited more than 1 pantry location: 156 Students

## June 2024 – January 2025

First Generation: 276

### Student Status

- 1<sup>st</sup> year undergraduate: 137
- 2<sup>nd</sup> year undergraduate: 105
- 3<sup>rd</sup> year undergraduate: 80
- 4<sup>th</sup> year undergraduate: 83
- 5<sup>th</sup> year or more undergraduate: 18
- Master's Level: 99
- Doctorate: 188
- Not Seeking a Degree: 1
- Other: 0

### Race

- American Indian or Native Alaskan: 15
- Asian or Asian American: 143
- Black or African American: 79
- Hispanic or Latino/a/x: 79
- Middle Eastern/North African (MENA) or Arab Origin: 18
- Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander Native: 2
- White: 416
- Biracial or Multiracial: 23
- Identity Not Listed: 12

### Gender

- Male: 269
- Female: 444
- Intersex: 0
- Prefer Not To Answer: 5
- Identify as Transgender: 14

### Gender Identity

- Woman or Female: 415
- Man or Male: 266
- Trans Woman: 0
- Trans Man: 3



- Genderqueer: 0
- Agender: 1
- Genderfluid: 2
- Intersex: 0
- Non-binary: 14

#### Age

- 18-20 years: 277
- 21-24 years: 195
- 25-29 years: 134
- 30+ years: 112

Veteran: 17

Parent or Primary Caregiver: 50

Visited more than 1 pantry location: 131 Students