On April 14, 2016, approximately 600 members of Buckeye Nation committed to convene for change at the inaugural Buckeye Summit. Delegates from 17 states, and as far away as London and Beijing, engaged in an interactive town hall focused on one of the most complex and important issues of our time: food security. Hunger affects every part of society and every corner of the globe, and Buckeyes have the individual and collective strength to make a difference.

The depth, breadth and passion of Buckeye Nation was apparent from the moment the registration opened in February and continued through Thursday morning when the first attendees arrived at the Ohio Union. Among those in attendance at the Buckeye Summit were:

- Volunteer leaders, including current and former members of the Ohio State Board of Trustees, the Wexner Medical Center Board, the Alumni Association Board and the Foundation Board
- University leaders and deans
- Alumni and friends
- Faculty and staff
- Students
- Community, business and government partners
- Alumni Advisory Council

Buckeye Summit delegates were asked to view food security through one of four lenses:

1. Health, Nutrition and Human Development
2. Food, Farming and the Environment
3. Entrepreneurship and Business
4. Food Policy

The Buckeye Summit was created to educate, engage and inspire the Ohio State community; and to foster collaboration between the university and its extensive Buckeye Nation to address food security.

Thank you for being part of it and for all that you do for Ohio State.

BuckeyeSummit.osu.edu

Moderated by

Daniel Stone
Making Change Real

makingchangereal.com
OHIO STATE TACKLES FOOD SECURITY

Ohio State is already working with partners to address hunger locally and globally, and to address the causes and effects of food insecurity. The university has invested nearly $15 million in new faculty experts in food production and security. Over the next decade, Ohio State will commit nearly $125 million to this defining challenge.

Ohio State’s goal for the future includes a focus on community engagement and the meaningful outcomes that result from strategically deploying the many resources the university has to offer, including:

- A profound body of research
- Thought leaders in all relevant fields and disciplines across our campuses
- The energy and ingenuity of more than 60,000 students
- The passion and commitment of Buckeye alumni and friends

“There are 530,000 Buckeyes around the world — an amazing number — and we can make a difference. Thank you for joining me today in listening, learning and sharing your voice.”

— President Michael V. Drake
Why is it important for Ohio State to make a significant effort to address food security?

“We have the moral and civic obligation to act.”

Themes
AS A LAND-GRANT UNIVERSITY and cornerstone of the community, we have the moral and civic obligation to act.

OHIO STATE HAS THE PROFILE and partnerships to lead this effort. When the institution takes a stand on something, people pay attention.

AS A RESEARCH HUB, we have the unique capacity to create new knowledge and develop intervention strategies by engaging a broad variety of disciplines.

FOR A UNIVERSITY TO BE RELEVANT, it needs to be engaged in important issues on a local, national and international level.

Why was it important for you to be a part of this effort?

“As alumni and employees we can harness the collective power of the institution to help and to educate the larger community.”

Themes
THIS IS OHIO STATE’S RESPONSIBILITY. As alumni and employees we can harness the collective power of the institution to help and to educate the larger community.

PAY FORWARD — strongly compelled to help as a caring member of our community through churches and other organizations.

THE PROBLEM TOUCHES SO MANY PEOPLE in all communities across the country. It is not limited to neighborhoods where poverty is highest.
Food security: Ohio State’s approach

Bruce McPherson  
Interim Executive Vice President and Provost,  
The Ohio State University

A public institution has an inherent responsibility to deal with issues of particular importance ... to ensure we’re connecting the dots between new ideas and solving problems. We have the comprehensive nature to provide all the raw materials and the right mission to tackle something like food security. Learning is not just one way — it’s flowing in all directions. As we teach them, our students give us back fresh ideas. There is no other university in the United States like Ohio State that has seven health sciences colleges. This truly is a unique place and a unique time to tackle this pervasive issue.

Sheldon Retchin  
CEO, The Ohio State University Wexner Medical Center  
Executive Vice President, Health Sciences, The Ohio State University

We have a public health paradox. Obesity is not a sign of wealth; it’s a sign of poverty. A teenage boy gets 10 percent of his calories from soda. That’s a culture we need to reverse and it’s a public health hazard. We must all take part in addressing this — it’s all hands on deck.

Dr. Jill Clark  
Assistant Professor, John Glenn College of Public Affairs  
The Ohio State University

Policies that address food security are fundamentally about addressing income. This is how we get to the wicked problem. We have an opportunity to engage in what I call food democracy. Think of it as citizenship and how we can collaborate. Democracy is a process and policy is a product. If you have a better process, you get a better product.

Jim Smith  
President and CEO  
The Ohio State University Alumni Association, Inc.

Thinking about food security as among the most complex and prevalent problems our world faces makes clear why Ohio State is truly the perfect place to tackle this issue. There is an unmatched depth and breadth of knowledge here; expertise across relevant disciplines; access to community, students and partners; and, without question, everyone here today and our 530,000+ alumni and volunteers worldwide, who can drive the transformative change necessary to impact the issues of food security.
Looking through your table’s “lens,” what are one or two of the most critical issues related to food security that need to be addressed in our local communities, our nation and our world?

**HEALTH, NUTRITION AND HUMAN DEVELOPMENT**

**Themes**

**HUNGER IN CHILDREN.** When unhealthful habits are established early on, children develop health issues that can pervade the rest of their lives.

**LACK OF INFORMATION/EDUCATION.** Individuals don’t receive the best information about healthful options and the benefits of a nutritious diet.

**ACCESS TO GROCERY STORES** is limited in certain communities across the country, and individuals in these communities often lack modes of transportation even to get to them.

**FOOD, FARMING AND ENVIRONMENT**

**Themes**

**FOOD WASTE.**

**SUBSIDIES DON’T ALWAYS PROMOTE** access to nutritious food.

**FOOD REGULATIONS** don’t meet the evolving needs of consumers and industry.

**SCIENTIFIC ILLITERACY** creates misconceptions about food science and technology.

**ENTREPRENEURSHIP AND BUSINESS**

**Themes**

**TOO MUCH FOOD WASTE** of excess crops and “ugly” foods (bruised apples shouldn’t land in the garbage).

**HIGH COST** of healthful foods creates a barrier.

**LACK OF ACCESS** to healthful foods: Need more store participation in SNAP, fresh foods in corner stores within food deserts and vending machines with nutritious foods and beverages.

**FOOD POLICY**

**Themes**

**DIFFICULTY IN GETTING** the collective system to work together systematically to address this issue.

**INADEQUATE** wages and employment opportunities.

**LACK OF INCENTIVES TO PRODUCE, process and consume local healthful food.**

**LACK OF INCENTIVES FOR ACCESS** to high-quality foods in local communities.
Interlude: A commitment to helping feed the hungry

REP. BOB GIBBS
Every state, city and county has unique challenges in nutrition and opportunities to overcome it. We should all be working to make sure programs that help those with nutrition assistance and access provide help for the short term and hope for the long term. After all, food security is not just a public health issue — it’s also a matter of national and economic security. I want to thank everybody for attending the Buckeye Summit for doing their part in tackling hunger. Through collaborative efforts like this, we can make sure all Americans have safe, affordable and accessible food.

SEN. SHERROD BROWN
Hunger is a preventable health issue. It’s up to each of us to ensure that our problems today don’t follow our people tomorrow. We know we can’t solve hunger through the school lunch program or food banks alone. We have to tackle the underlying issue of families living in poverty. It requires a coordinated strategy to lift up families, to build ladders so people who aspire to the middle class can join that journey and get there. To all of you working on this important issue, you’ll one day be able to answer, “Yes, we fed the hungry.”

MEERA NAGARAJAN
Food is linked to warmth and love for me. When I first volunteered at a food pantry, though, I witnessed how food was a burden for families. As a fourth-year nutrition science major and pre-med student, my research and experiences have only strengthened my belief that we all have the same dreams, ambitions and values, although we do not necessarily all have the same opportunities. Because of this, in my professional and personal life, I hope to provide people with the best chance not only to have better health, but to thrive and have a better quality of life.
At Ohio State, the National Institute of Food and Agriculture has made over $121.4 million in grants from 2011 through 2015, which are evolving to meet the needs of nontraditional agricultural populations. Urban agriculture can provide many benefits to a community, including closer neighborhood ties, reduced crime, education and job training opportunities and healthful food access for low-income residents. Additionally, economic opportunities are being created for new and existing farmers, ranchers and small business entrepreneurs by supporting the development of local and regional food systems.

The Economic Research Service has found that virtually all revenues generated in a local food system stay local and are reinvested into the community, creating a great economic driver for rural America.

Every tool in our toolbox is needed to accelerate innovation and adoption of new agricultural technologies as part of a new, forward-looking approach to the food and agricultural challenges. We all possess the capabilities of solving complex, everyday problems and encourage more Americans to take advantage of them. We call it “citizen science” when the public participates voluntarily in the scientific process. And when that information is shared through crowdsourcing, we spur the scientific research through group discovery and co-creation of knowledge. You have the power to advance the culture of innovation, learning, sharing and doing to help solve scientific and societal problems.

With a projected increased global population by mid-century, we will not only face the challenge of feeding 9 billion people, but we will also have 1 billion going hungry. It’s important that we act deliberately and with urgency. As we recognize National Volunteer Week, I’d like to celebrate the efforts of each of you as we work together toward a common goal. I have faith that together, we will find new ways to broaden participation, increase the diversity of the workforce and attract students interested in science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) subjects to discover the innovations that our country and the world are waiting for.

Summarized from remarks as prepared for delivery.
Dr. Patty Cunningham

When we first started at Trevitt Elementary School, I was tickled by the kids’ excitement and naivety, their energy and eagerness to be part of something new. But then I noticed kids having headaches, complaints of their stomachs hurting, and test scores that could not be ignored.

That summer we had kids who never had grapes before; children who could not identify pictures of basic fruit; and kids thinking cuties were mutated versions of an orange.

We deployed the GEM program: Grow. Explore. Mentor. We knew a nutrition plan needed to be part of what we would provide by extending the school day. At Trevitt, we bring healthy snacks and partner with the school administration to have dinner provided to kids who stay after school for any program.

In 2014, 100 percent of our children passed the third grade guarantee. We know it is because we put together all the parts: extended school day, innovative programming, year-round mentoring, physical activity, and nutrition.

Where there is hunger, there are other issues. We have to take into account the whole child: their neighborhood, education and family structure. Do they have clothes to wear? Are they hungry?

How can we work together and help?

• Become a mentor
• Donate resources to organizations who do this work
• Give your talent (i.e. garden)
What are two or three ways we could leverage the power of Buckeye Nation’s alumni and friends and our external partners to address food security?

We have to take a systems approach — coming together and connecting the pockets of excellence that already exist.

Themes

BUILD PARTNERSHIPS with institutions, industries and nonprofits that are already working on the problem — and add value to their process.

HARNESS THE POWER of the Athletic Department to create awareness (food drives could coincide with games/spirit events).

EMPOWER THE 530,000 ALUMNI by giving them opportunities, ideas and best practices to impact their communities.
Diana Aviv

We have a responsibility to lift our eyes beyond our own particular circumstances. Upon discovering the great difficulties that others face, we recognize our responsibility to act — to do our part to create a society with a safety net for people who are unable to work, who are elderly, who are in crisis or those for whom work does not provide enough income to meet the basic necessities of life like food and shelter.

Our next step is a commitment to harnessing the billions of pounds of food that go to waste every year. We must ensure systems are in place to ensure everyone has the food they need now and in the future.

These are not small problems, but neither are they insurmountable. We can solve them. But it will take the will and determination of people like you, as well as corporations, businesses and government coming together. We must agree to the simple but powerful notion that anything less than a hunger-free America is not the society in which we want to live.

Each one of you can help in your own unique way. A single act, great or small, can help feed a hungry adult or child.

- If you have 5 seconds, you can like or share a social media post about hungry people in America.
- If you have 50 minutes, you can write a letter or join a Twitter chat or town hall meeting expressing concern about hunger.
- If you have more time, volunteer to sort food or deliver meals at a local food agency or visit your local Congressperson to talk about this important issue.

And you can do them all!

It doesn’t take much time to ignite positive change in America. Be the spark that puts a meal on the table for someone who is hungry. Be the spark that helps create a hunger-free nation. Be the spark that makes this collective vision for a better tomorrow a reality today.

*Summarized from remarks as prepared for delivery.*
Thank you for coming to the inaugural Buckeye Summit.
Thank you for convening for change.
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Poster map also available at go.osu.edu/osufoodsecurity