

Food Dignity

“Food Dignity: Action Research On Engaging Food Insecure Communities And Universities In Building Sustainable Community Food Systems”

5 +1 Food Dignity (FD) Case Stories

5 community initiatives

- **East New York Farms!** (ENYF!), United Community Centers, Brooklyn, NY
- **Whole Community Project** (WCP), Cornell Cooperative Extension, Tompkins County, NY
- **Feeding Laramie Valley** (FLV), Albany County, WY
- **Wind River Indian Reservation** (WRIR), Blue Mountain Associates, WY
- **Dig Deep Farms & Produce** (DDF&P), Alameda County, CA

1 attempt at academic allyship to community partners

- **Cornell University**
- **University of Wyoming**
- **Ithaca College**
- **(Center for Popular Education, Research and Policy)**

Food Dignity Action-Research Design

- \$300k “support package” to each community over 5 years:
 - community organizer (half-time)
 - steering committees
 - community research budget
 - minigrants for citizen action with “animators”
 - university-community liaison (FLV and WCP)
- 5 + 1 case studies including:
 - Photovoice
 - Interviews
 - File collection and coding
 - Participation & observation
 - Minigrant tracking
 - Garden harvest measures



Eric McPhail, Extension agent, farming and ranching programs

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“Our project title, ‘Food Dignity,’ signals both our **ethical stance** that human and community agency in food systems is an end in itself **and our scientific hypothesis** that building civic and institutional capacity to engage in sustainable community food system action will improve the sustainability and equity of our local food systems and economies.” (FD grant application 2010)

Opportunities and Challenges

- Public relationships
- Who names and frames the problems, and who asks the questions?
- Advocacy and/or research

Opportunities and Challenges

Challenges:

- Communication:
Language
- Measuring Successes
- Leveraging Resources



Opportunities and Challenges

Opportunities:

- Support Cornell's Commitment to Diversity and Inclusion 2012-2013
- Investment: Building Capacity
- Enhance Campus-Community Partnerships



Questions or Comments?

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