

HungerCorps VISTA Capstone.

2021-2022 REVIEW

Neely Griggs



AmeriCorps



About AmeriCorps VISTA

This national service organization was created in 1965 during the Johnson Administration to help alleviate poverty.

AmeriCorps VISTA Core Principles:

- Ending poverty
- Empowering communities
- Building capacity
- Creating sustainable solutions

Through NC Campus Engagement VISTAs are placed at organizations to build capacity and develop programs that serve the community.





The Collaborative for the Common Good

The CCG is an organization on campus that uses a project-based approach to address economic, social, and ecological issues in eastern Union County. As a hub for community partnership and engagement, the CCG hopes to transform our local region by focusing on creating neighborhoods where people, places, and economies can thrive and prosper. Examples of projects include SLCE opportunities, the Wingate Community Garden, and service experiences.

The CCG and VISTA

VISTA members have been influential partners of the CCG in developing the Wingate Community Garden. I am the 3rd VISTA member at the CCG.

VISTA Assignment Description

The VISTA project will design opportunities for students to learn about the many dimensions of food, nutrition, and food systems through the community garden and also provide access to healthy produce and nutrition education to the campus and community.

- ✓ Community outreach and partnership development related to the Wingate Community Garden
- ✓ Resource development for the Food Council of Union County
- ✓ Research and expand on-campus health and nutritional education opportunities

Food Council of



Wingate Community Garden



- Fall Festival
- Agricultural Immersion Experience
- Adopt-a-Bed
- Service Learning Projects
- Seedling Fundraiser
- Summer Series
- Partnership with Eagle Scout and WU's Physical Therapy Program



Numbers



\$12,371 managed



300 lb. donated



511 youth supported



14 educational events



**32 campus and
community partners
involved**



104 WU student volunteers

Agricultural Immersion Experience

A series of day camps focused on introducing local students to the food system in Eastern Union County

Attendees ate lunch with WU athletes, participated in a wide variety of activities, and left with take-home snacks and materials to continue learning.



70 5th-9th grade students attended our events



18 community and campus partners involved

This was my first project, and it ended up being a great way to meet the Union County community and the CCG's partners.

Agricultural Immersion Days

At Wingate University

Middle Schoolers will spend a Saturday learning about food in Union County.

September 25: Smarty Plants



Learn about our campus community garden, the science behind it, and plants you might find in nature



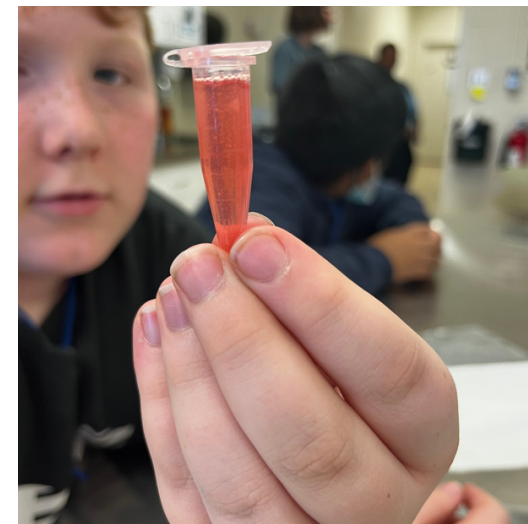
October 26: Herd Ne

Tour DabHar farm to get hands-on experience with farm animals, and then learn about fishing and the effects of overfishing at campus lake

November 6: Microbiology in Ag



Get up close with our plants through DNA extraction, and then learn about food safety and preservation.



Food Council of Union County

- Food Council Spotlight
- Updated Website
- Newsletter
- 2 farmer's market visits
- 2 SLCE groups

Numbers



**2,085 Facebook
profiles reached**



\$5,120 managed

Food Council of



UNION COUNTY



Food Council Spotlight

Carolina Farm Stewardship's October Food Council Spotlight featured information about what is happening with food councils across the greater Charlotte-Metro region. We highlighted councils from Union, Mecklenberg, Cabarrus, and Rowan counties.

We hosted a live stream featuring Wake County Soil and Water District Supervisor Jenna Wadsworth and U.S. Congresswoman Alma S. Adams, PhD.



516 users tuned in

Save the Date

Greater Charlotte-Metro Region Food Councils Present:

OCTOBER FOOD COUNCIL SPOTLIGHT

We will Spotlight Facebook feature Wadsworth Congresswoman Adams, PhD on food resilience COVID and the importance of food councils

KEYNOTE 12PM (EST) WATCH VIA FACEBOOK LIVE

Learn about local food from Jenna Wadsworth and Congresswoman Alma S. Adams, PhD.

OCTOBER FOOD COUNCIL SPOTLIGHT

Check out these events around **Rowan County**

- City of Kannapolis: Community News Farmers Market on Thursdays
- Rowan County Fair: September 24-October 2
- China Grove Farmers Market on Fridays
- Salisbury/Rowan Farmers' Market on Saturdays
- Town of Landis Farmers Market on Tuesdays

WATCH FOR LOCAL FOOD COUNCIL EVENTS ON SOCIAL MEDIA!

Logos: Rowan Food & Farm Network, Charlotte-Mecklenburg Food Policy Council, Union County Food Council, Cabarrus County Farm and Food Council, AmeriCorps

Health and Nutrition Education

- Doghouse Events
- Wednesday Refuels
- Winter Food Pickups
- Wingate Farmers Market
- Cooking on a Dime Partnership
- Hunger and Homelessness Awareness Week
- 2 Campus Surveys
- 2 Lyceums



Numbers

- ✓ \$6,250 managed
- ✓ \$25,000 in snacks distributed

- ✓ 154 WU students supported through events
- ✓ 9 community organizations involved

The Facts



37.2 million
Americans live below the
poverty level

580,000
Americans are homeless on a
typical night



44 million
Americans are at risk of
suffering from hunger

1 in 6
children in the U.S. live in poverty

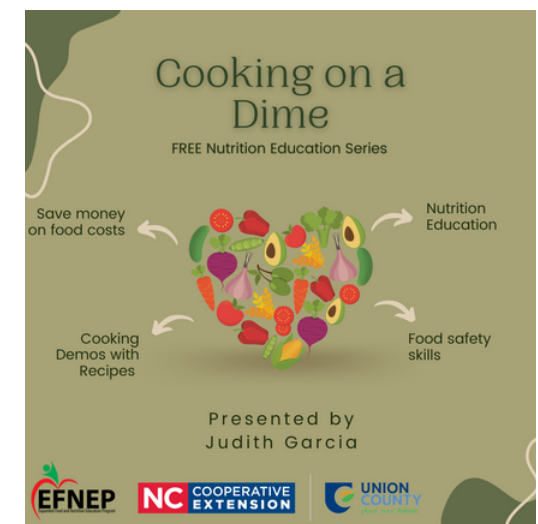


<https://hhweek.org/hunger-and-homelessness/>

Cooking on a Dime

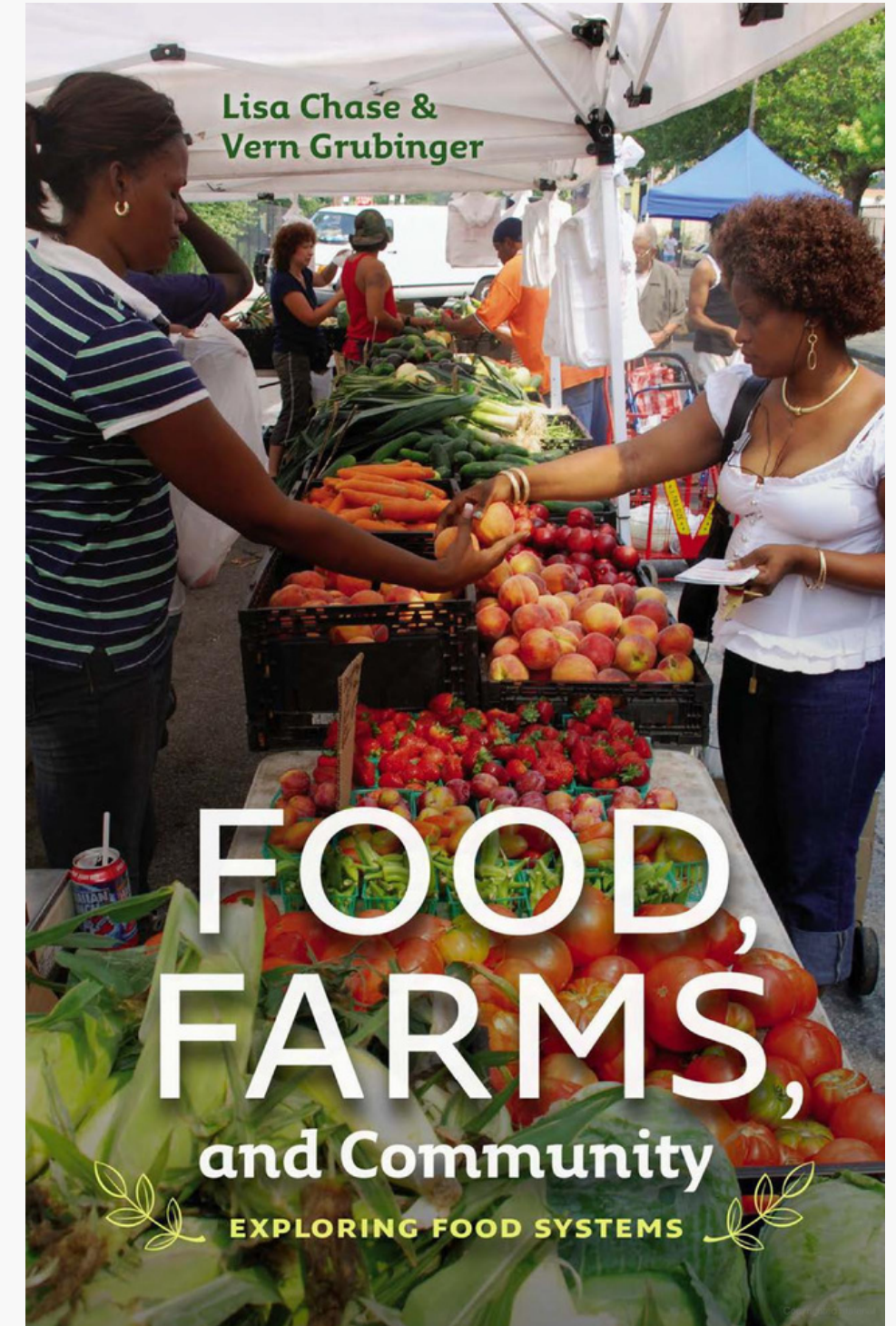
Through a partnership with the Union County Cooperative Extension's EFNEP Coordinator, we were able to host the Cooking on a Dime program at WU for the first time.

- ✓ 7 students attended
- ✓ 6/6 would recommend
- ✓ Overall improvement in health and food literacy



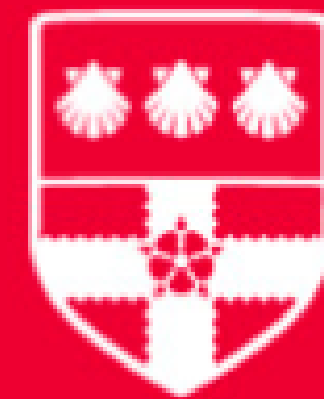
Professional Development

- ✓ 84.5 formal professional development hours completed
- ✓ PACE Presentation "Community Garden as Center for Community and Civic Engagement"



Future Plans

- ✓ 2022 Fulbright/University Of Reading Award
In Food Security Scholar
- ✓ MSc Food Security and Development



University of
Reading

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