USF Food Pantry Will Help Keep Students on Track and in School

TAMPA, Fla. (August 25, 2015) — Like many schools across the nation, the University of South Florida has a population of students who are struggling to afford the most basic necessity of food while pursuing their diploma. Food insecurity is not a new issue on college campuses but, with an increasing number of students disclosing their need, universities are responding by operating food pantries. On Sept. 1, 2015, USF will open the doors to its Tampa campus food pantry, Feed-a-Bull, in partnership with the nonprofit organization Feeding America Tampa Bay.

“Hungry populations often have to make tough choices—in this case it’s college students sacrificing nutrition in order to create a better future for themselves,” said Thomas Mantz, executive director of Feeding America Tampa Bay. “What’s unfortunate is that sacrificing this nutrition actually hinders their ability to learn, therefore counteracting their education productivity. Feed-A-Bull is an important collaboration with USF to serve students in need so they can avoid sacrificing their nutrition or futures.”

The Feed-A-Bull pantry will provide supplemental food to USF students to alleviate food hardship so they can continue their studies. The pantry will be operated by Student Affairs’ Student Outreach & Support and Wellness Education departments with support from student volunteers.

“No student should experience food insecurity which impedes their ability to be personally and academically successful,” said Callie Nettles, case manager in Student Outreach & Support. “Feed-A-Bull will not only provide supplemental food to students in need, but also education and resources related to purchasing and preparing balanced food on a budget. USF wants our students to be successful in their studies and not have to worry where their next meal will come from.”

Located in Student Outreach & Support’s office on the second floor of the Student Services building (SVC 2058), Feed-a-Bull will launch fully stocked by Feeding America Tampa Bay. The pantry will be open on Tuesdays from 9 a.m. to noon and Wednesdays from 1 to 4 p.m. Non-perishable food donations are welcomed and can be dropped off in Student Outreach & Support. Monetary donations can be made via the Feed-A-Bull website at www.usf.edu/feedabull.

For more information, contact Callie Nettles at 813-974-6130 or e-mail feedabull@usf.edu. For media inquiries, contact Renee Hunt at 813-974-5383 or reneehunt@usf.edu.