Addressing Student Food and Housing Insecurity at Los Angeles Pierce College 2017-18
# Table of Contents

Introduction .................................................................................. 3  
The Brahma Initiative .................................................................... 4  
The Master Plan ............................................................................. 5  
  Section 1 ................................................................................. 5  
  Section 2 ................................................................................ 8  
  Section 3 ................................................................................ 8  
  Section 4 ................................................................................ 9  
  Section 5 ................................................................................ 9  
Cites and Resources ...................................................................... 11  
Closing Statements ........................................................................ 12
INTRODUCTION

Community college is an institution that prides itself on affordability and opportunity. In California, its community college system is largest in the nation, having around 1.2 million students who attend its campuses. In Southern California, the Los Angeles Community College District (LACCD) is the largest district in the state, having a total of nine colleges. Los Angeles Pierce College (LAPC) is amongst those nine and holds the second largest amount of students.

While it is true that community college is a financially sound choice, the students of LAPC are facing a dilemma that stems from living affordability in the City of Los Angeles. The cost of living in the city is rising and students are finding it harder to financially support themselves. In July of 2016, the LACCD conducted a survey focused on Food and Housing Insecurity in the student body of the district. The results were stunning, garnering national headline, essentially detailing that 1 in 5 students had experienced those insecurities in the past year of the time the survey was conducted. Housing insecurity ranged from high housing costs to eviction and homelessness. Food insecurity ranged from not having enough to eat throughout the day, to not being able to afford a meal at all.

Which is why the Associated Student Organization (ASO) of Los Angeles Pierce College believes that action must be taken to help fellow students who go through their educational careers in these predicaments. Considering LAPC obtains the second largest student body in the district, the population of students being addressed in the study must be large. Which is why the Associated Student Organization is launching the Brahma Initiative.
THE BRAHMA INITIATIVE

As part of the mission statement, The Brahma Initiative focuses on resolving the student Food and Housing Insecurity issue that the City of Los Angeles faces. The project is student-led and student-focused, with the undertaking to assist the students of LAPC who face socio-economical challenges in their daily lives.

The initiative is a five-part strategic plan that consists of:

- Creating Awareness
- Acquiring and Providing Informational Resources at LAPC
- Developing a Food and Community Pantry
- Establishing a Relationship with Food and Housing Community Organizations
- Advocating on behalf of LAPC Food and Housing Insecure Students

The Brahma Initiative will launch awareness campaigns to create a more sensitive and inclusive culture in the campus, and to reach out to students who are our focus. We will be working with local organizations and public offices to bring in the resources that are necessary for our cause. In addition, we will work with campus organizations like St.A.S.H., who have worked in the past to fight student hunger. We will also works towards establishing a permanent and efficient food and community pantry facility. Lastly, advocating for these students will be priority, going as far as lobbying district and state platforms to demand that action be taken to address this crisis.

In conclusion, the student-driven proposal initiates the discussion concerning students who are unable to afford a meal and/or roof over their heads. The Brahma Initiative confronts LAPC’s food and housing insecurities on campus through the five part strategic plan. As such, the program instills a conscious, empathetic, and serving culture within the student body. In doing so, it will be actively serving and guiding students to the resources they require to succeed at LAPC, and in their personal lives, everyday lives.
THE MASTER PLAN

Read:
This section of the Brahma Initiative Master Book is not for reproduction and distributing. This section is owned exclusively by the authors of the book, LAPC Associated Student Organization, and Community Welfare committee.
STRATEGIC PLAN TO BE ADOPTED, IMPLEMENTED, AND EXECUTED BY THE COMMUNITY WELFARE COMMITTEE (CWC).

Section 1
Creating An Awareness Campaign to Reach Students Focus of Initiative

I. Tools: Flyers, social media, LAPC marquees, Roundup, KPC, LAPC Professors, and clubs on campus.

II. Establish A Backpack Reserve Campaign
   A. These backpacks will be for ASO members (students who paid the fee) or for students that are food and housing insecure.
      1. The backpacks will have a logo on them to display the initiative.
      2. Contain information concerning the Brahma initiative and a registry of resources that food and housing insecure.
      3. Each backpack will come with a water bottle provided by ASO.
   B. Serves to highlight what the ASO fee covers. Thus, provides other students an avenue to be apart of the cause. We may advertise to the student body that just by paying the ASO fee is a way to provide peers of backpacks, water bottles, etc.

III. Design a universal banner for the initiative
   A. CWC will design a banner that will be brought to any event the committee chooses to attend. The banner will showcase the Brahma initiative, ASO, and LAPC.

IV. Invite Organizations to come and educate LAPC student body.
   A. These organizations would present and raise awareness concerning the issues of homelessness in LA County.
      1. These presentations would take hold during ASO Senate meetings.
         a) The senators would be the main attendees of the presentation. Yet, ASO would personally invite club officials and spread the word around campus that the student body is welcomed. ASO must clarify that the event is open to everyone to learn more about homelessness.
      2. Additionally, we would ask certain organizations to train student leaders on how to handle situations concerning homeless students/ homelessness in general. The organizations would need to be one’s that are familiar with handling those situations and are well established.
         a) CWC will have the one on one trainings/presentations with the organizations about how to case work. The individuals that receive these trainings would not be official caseworkers, but at least somewhat experienced within this area on how to help and direct individuals.
b) After a well amount of trainings, the CWC would also form an interpersonal system that focuses on casework for homeless students/individuals.

(1) Not everyone apart of CWC has to participate in case-working or receiving confidential information. But the act of aiding these students who need help will be encouraged.

c) The Organizations to present to the student body must be compiled and listed in an ASO registry.

3. Create a phone/email/location Registry.
   a) This registry would consist contact and location information to organizations or locations for food and housing insecure students to receive aid or attention within the San Fernando Valley.

(1) The Registry will be offered to everyone and anyone, and must be updated monthly.

b) The Registry will consist of (subject to change):

(1) Transitional Housing
(2) Housing
(3) Shelters
(4) Local Food Pantries/Soup Kitchens
(5) Showers
(6) Free Legal Services
(7) Free Counseling
(8) Medical Centers (mental and physical health)
(9) Employment (skill building/apprenticeships)
(10) Volunteering Opportunity

4. The Brahma Initiative will attend events to spread awareness of resources for food and housing insecure students. The list is subject to change.

a) Homelessness Awareness Fair
b) Community/Food Drives
c) Club Rush
d) Job Fair
e) UC/CSU Transfer Day
f) Thanksgiving Food Drive
g) Christmas Food/Toy Drive
h) Fundraising Events
Section 2
Establish Informational Resources At ASO/LAPC

I. Through the awareness campaign, ASO will inform the student body about these resources.

II. In Student Services, Student Engagement Center, and Health Office
   A. Create a central location for all this information. Possibly where the couches are in ASO, place a display case for the Brahma Initiative information and other ASO agendas.
   B. The registry will include Volunteering Opportunities and ASO will provide information concerning events occurring within the Community of SFV:
      1. Volunteering
      2. ASO Volunteer Work
      3. What events are going on in the SF for Homelessness Action (ex. Homelessness Connect Day)

Section 3
Food and Community Pantry Action, Development, and Improvement

I. Community Welfare Committee will work with StASH
   A. Improve and enhance the StASH food pantry
      1. Set up a system to work with organizations to supply LAPC with fresh foods that are nutritious
      2. Consolidate a plan with St.A.S.H to to expand and further development on a pantry facility.
      3. Designate a space out on the mall for a Pierce Community Pantry that Pierce students may access necessities.
      4. Develop from food to garner other necessities like clothes, blankets, etc.
   II. Work with Agricultural Department to find ways that Pierce itself could provide Fresh Foods.
      A. Establish a community garden on Pierce as a way to provide supply ourselves with Fresh and sustainable foods.
      B. Work with the Sustainability committee on what foods are best to plant to help keep Pierce sustainable
      C. Reach out to organizations that may donate fresh foods to LAPC.
   III. Work with Sustainability Committee on the campaign on water affordability
      A. Water Stations
         1. ASO will provide reusable water bottles to all students through the Sustainability Committee
Section 4  
Work With Organizations and Public Offices  
I. Establish Pierce As A Center for LAHSA's Annual Homeless Count  
   A. Find out how Pierce can be a center  
      1. According to LAHSA, being a center for the Homeless Count would be a 3 year commitment.  
II. CWC and ASO senators will try to be a part of the Homeless Connect Day that occurs within the San Fernando Valley and Los Angeles. As well as spread the word about the Homeless Connect Day.  
III. Bring in Organizations to train and educate Pierce about homelessness.  
   A. Also, CWC/ASO will invite these community organizations to be apart of Pierce events. As an exchange, we will lend our services (i.e. volunteering) to them for any event that they may need additional support.  
IV. Establishing a partnership between ASO and community organizations and public offices is important in order to make sure Pierce is updated and aware on the Homelessness issue in Los Angeles. Not to mention, the opportunity to physically help the community through volunteering.  
V. CWC/ASO should obtain a presence in the Neighborhood Council Meetings and Community in Woodland Hills in order to receive information and awareness on opportunities to aid the community at large.  
VI. In addition to having off campus organizations come educate and train Pierce students, this initiative would also like to utilize BRAVE training to get them prone to helping someone out in any circumstance.  

Section 5  
Lobbying and Advocacy  
I. This initiative will utilize all possible avenues in order to aid these students. One of these pathways is to express and address the concerns of these students to bodies of government that are able to draft and pass resolutions.  
II. Community Welfare Committee (CWC) will have a liaison to communicate with the Rules/Lobbying on the logistics of future resolutions for home and food insecure students.  
III. CWC will draft a resolution to adopt this initiative and begin the process of addressing the concerns of homeless students and send it in to ASO senate.  
   A. After the draft of this first of many resolutions, CWC will take it to the Rules/Lobbying committee.  
   B. Resolve that rules and lobbying will work on a 2 year commitment plan to install the Brahma initiative.  
IV. CWC will reach out to Pierce College shared Governance Committees (PCC) to address the concerns of home and food insecure students.
A. CWC will first start by selecting the committees that are best suited to address these issues and work to achieve a solution. Specifically, concerning what ASO wants to implement and display on campus.

V. CWC will engage with District Bodies
   A. Student Affairs Committee
   B. Discussions with the other 8 college ASOs
   C. Work on drafting and adopt resolutions to hold the Board of Trustees accountable
   D. Board of Trustee lobbying and advocacy

VI. Lobby for a Student Union Building for Pierce College
   A. Work on creating arguments for the institution at Pierce College

VII. Lobby for Water Stations to be built and funded by Pierce.
   A. As previously stated, homeless students find it hard to afford water bottles on campus.
   B. Thus, providing multiple water stations on campus will aid these students by providing them free clean and very accessible water.

VIII. CWC will attend SSCCC to introduce new resolutions for Spring.
   A. CWC will draft and create resolutions
      1. First, CWC will research on what field within homelessness has not been implemented or started on in SSSCC.
      2. Additionally, CWC will research past Resolutions adopted by the State of California to implement them in the campus and co-opt them with the initiative.

CONCLUSION:
The Brahma Initiative strives to resolve food and housing insecurities that fellow LA Pierce College students experience on a daily basis. The detailed five-part master plan encompasses pathways and steps that will be takes in an attempt to resolve the issue at LAPC, LACCD, and all California Community Colleges.
Cites and Resources...

to look into to the cause/situation

- [http://laccd.edu/Documents/NewsDocuments/LACCD-HOPE-LAB-Survey-Results.pdf](http://laccd.edu/Documents/NewsDocuments/LACCD-HOPE-LAB-Survey-Results.pdf)
- [http://californiacommunitycolleges.cccco.edu/PolicyInAction/KeyFacts.aspx](http://californiacommunitycolleges.cccco.edu/PolicyInAction/KeyFacts.aspx)
- [https://www.lamayor.org/homelessness](https://www.lamayor.org/homelessness)
- [https://svdpla.org/give-help/homelessness-statistics/](https://svdpla.org/give-help/homelessness-statistics/)
MISSION STATEMENT:
The Brahma Initiative is a Los Angeles Pierce College (LAPC) Associated Student Organization (ASO) project. The Brahma Initiative focuses on resolving the student Food and Housing Insecurity issue that the City of Los Angeles faces. The project is student-led and student-focused, with the undertaking to assist the students of LAPC who face socio-economical challenges in their daily lives.

AUTHORS: EFREN LOPEZ GISELA TARIFA

@PierceCollegeASO