



Associated Students of Fullerton College

Statement in Support of the Free Hot Meal Program at Fullerton College

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Vote: Passed unanimously

Fullerton College Administration, Faculty, and Staff,

In many classes at Fullerton College, students will learn of Maslow's Hierarchy of Needs. This pyramid-shaped chart ranks a series of priorities within the human body and mind, the first of which is Physiological Needs. People need food. People need water. This same reality applies to students, and it is through programs at Fullerton College that we can ensure Basic Needs are met, programs like the Free Hot Meals. Since the beginning of Fall 2021, Fullerton College has provided students with free hot meals twice a day. This semester, it only takes a brief stroll across campus to notice the sheer number of students benefiting from this program. Since Fall 2021, this program has begun to reach 4,200 students per week, with 2,000 students coming for breakfast and 2,000 coming for lunch. With lines that stretch from outside the 200 building and through the halls before entering the cafeteria, it is hard to deny the students' appreciation for this initiative and its impacts.

The Free Hot Meals program fulfills a vital need of Fullerton College students, striving to serve students and improve their health. According to College Pulse, an organization that acquires data on college students, "one-third (33%) of students say they sometimes or often skip an individual meal because they do not have enough money for food... 1 in 10 (12%) students say they sometimes or often go an entire day without eating because they cannot afford it" [1]. For those who cannot afford to bring breakfast and lunch to campus, this program helps them. For those who do not have the ability to prepare a meal before coming to campus, this helps them. For those who cannot afford to venture off-campus for food during the day, this helps them. For all exhausted students who need breakfast and/or lunch to make it through a school day, this helps them. Free meals on-campus support and benefit the wellness of all students. They ensure that for the duration of classes and any day spent on campus, Fullerton College students will have

what they need to refuel, function, and thrive. This is not only a desire; it is a necessity. Once Fullerton College secures students' essentials, these same students can begin to strive for goals and dreams, for education and graduation. The Free Hot Meals Program at Fullerton College is improving their lives. It is fulfilling a basic need and supporting their health. Food is necessary, and this program has truly helped, giving students a way to access food in an environment in which they truly need it: college. This is a vital endeavor, and one that Associated Students ardently supports for future semesters.

It is for these reasons that Associated Students of Fullerton College would like to not only commend the efforts of the college in this endeavor, but advocate for its continuation in coming semesters.

Sincerely,

Fullerton College Associated Student Senate