Incorporating the "Social" Piece into the Sustainability Puzzle

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Oakton’s Mission & Vision

Mission: Oakton is the community’s college. By providing access to quality education throughout a lifetime, we empower and transform our students in the diverse community we serve.

Vision: Dedicated to teaching and learning, Oakton is a student-centered college known for academic rigor and high standards. Through exemplary teaching that relies on innovation and collaboration with our community partners, our students learn to think critically, solve problems, and to be ethical global citizens who shape the world. We are committed to diversity, cultural competence and achieving equity in student outcomes.
Background


Environmental and fiscal discussions related to sustainability were frequent. But what about the social?

- Fair Trade Coffee--Students for Social Justice, no longer enforced
- Community Garden--Ecology Club, 2008
- Bottle Ban--Honors Program, Students for Social Justice, 2016
- Caring Closet--ROTO, Sustainability Club, 2019

More of an emphasis after AASHE and First Year Experience: Poverty & Privilege
Community Garden

- Skokie Campus, standard
- Des Plaines Campus
  - Volunteer-led
  - One faculty & sustainability staff
  - Master Gardeners
- All harvests from DPC donated to local food pantries, 687 lbs
- Grounds for Growing, 415 lbs
Caring Closet

- Initially planning for food recovery
- Basic Needs Survey in 2017 suggested 31% of students were food insecure
- Joint effort by Sustainability, Student Life, and Wellness
- Students, Faculty, Staff
- Hope to engage via Persistence Project
Questions

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“Leadership is the expectation that you can use your voice for good, that you can make the world a better place.”
-Sheryl Sandberg