Farm to Tiny Table: Bringing Local Food to Early Childhood Education Centers

What began in 2019 in a moment of professional synchronicity is flourishing and growing with the help of an InFACT Linkage and Leverage grant. In 2019, a call for applications for Collaborative Improvement and Innovation Network (CoIIN) grants were announced. The grants were issued by the Association of State Public Health Nutritionists, with funding from the Centers for Disease Control to build capacity for Farm to Early Care and Education (ECE) programs. Carol Smathers, field specialist in youth nutrition and wellness at Ohio State University Extension, and associate professor in the College of Food and Agricultural Sciences, immediately got on the phone with her colleagues. “Eight of us started calling each other when the funding opportunity was announced,” she says. “We had all been working on early childhood nutrition, child obesity prevention, and training early childhood providers, so when this opportunity came up, we were all excited.”

Read the Story
Nurturing Bodies & Minds: Student Farm Outreach Includes Campus Garden

During spring of 2021, throughout the summer, and well into fall, there was a pocket farm on central campus. The colorful garden outside InFACT’s home in Smith Lab welcomed pollinators, including bees and butterflies. Signs placed throughout the garden space explained the garden had been planned and planted by students from the Ohio State University Student Farm, which occupies four acres at Waterman Farm on West Campus.

Tracking and Preventing Campus Food Waste with Quality Data

Here are two contradictory and troubling statistics: The USDA estimates that 1 in 8 people in the United States were food insecure in 2020. But, about 40% of the food produced in the United States is consistently wasted.

Brian Roe’s mission is to lower the levels of food waste, while also benefiting people who are food insecure. Roe, professor of Agricultural, Environmental and Developmental Economics, is the PI on a 2020-2021 InFACT Linkage & Leverage grant project, “Transforming Food Access by Expanding and Licensing a Campus Food Recovery Data Collection System.” The grant is allowing Roe and his team to refine and develop software that will make food waste prevention efforts at campuses nationwide more efficient and provide quality data regarding their food use.
UPCOMING EVENTS

Field Futures-Ohio Workshop
February 22, 10-6PM - Deadline to register is Feb. 15

Farm to Institution Midwest Summit
February 28 - March 2, 2022

FUNDING & OTHER OPPORTUNITIES

Warner Grant RFP
Deadline: March 1, 2022

Learn More About Funding Opportunities