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Respondent

10 Ben English

01:23

Time to complete

Final Project Report

1. Date of this final project report submission *

4/14/25

2. Name of project exactly as it was listed in your award letter *

Sustainable Food Event

3. Date (or semester/year) of original award letter *

10/10/24

4. Expiration date of award as listed on original award letter or approved scope change letter - whichever is more recent *

10/10/26

5. Enter the amount of the award, including any budget increases as a result of a previous scope change. *

\$1,055.47

6. How much (in dollars) of your award (including previous approved budget increases) is remaining? *

\$90.17

7. Briefly describe the goals of your project. *

The project is focused on giving students an understanding of sustainable agriculture and what that could look like as a career. To do this we will bring in at least three speakers who will discuss their career in sustainable agriculture. One confirmed speaker is Matt Turino who is a manager for the SSF. The second confirmed speaker is Jeff Hake who is a director for Central Illinois FarmFED Co-op and also president of Central Illinois Young Farmers. We hope that by bringing people together and listening to these speakers, they can better understand how to bridge the gap between agriculture and sustainability. We will also be providing food which is not only an incentive for people to attend the meeting but is also a physical example of sustainable agriculture. Our caterer, Plato's, uses local produce and also donates some of their proceeds back into the community. In short, we want this event to bring people of all aspects together to hear how we can turn a stereotypical non-sustainable practice, into one that works for all communities and the environment.

8. Did you complete your project as it was outlined in the original award letter or in a subsequent approved scope change? *

- ☒ Yes, the project was completed as originally outlined.
- ☐ No, the project was not completed as originally outlined.

9. On what date did you consider the project finished or that you stopped working on it? *

11/11/25

10. Describe, in detail, the challenges / obstacles your project faced. *

One of the main difficulties we faced as a project was finding applicable speakers that were interested and willing to come talk. Another difficulty we faced was figuring out how to reach students that might be interested but don't typically interact with sustainability events.

11. Describe, in detail, the successes your project experienced. *

The project was a success in many aspects. The main one being the community that was fostered during the event. A good number of people attended and afterwards discussed with us the impact that the speakers had on them. It was definitely successful in getting people to think about agriculture in a new light, while also being a welcoming community event.

12. Describe, in detail, how your implemented project addressed sustainability. *

We addressed sustainability by showing, with the help of our speakers, how agriculture--a field typically thought of as environmentally damaging--can promote community engagement and find creative solutions to address sustainability.

13. Describe, in detail, how your project integrated student involvement and community outreach. *

We integrated student involvement by tailoring the speaker event to students. To do this we made sure to include time for questions during the event. Furthermore, we did our best to promote our event on instagram and using digital signage.

14. Describe how the project engaged individuals from underrepresented groups and/or how it promoted diversity, equity, and inclusion. *

Whitney Fowler was one of our speakers and she talked about her experience working for a community garden. She explained how often times families who do not have lots of resources will come to the garden and pick fresh produce for them to use in their homes. This promotes underrepresented groups because it presents people with a possible way to address food insecurity for marginalized communities.

15. What key takeaways should the campus community know about your project? *

One key takeaway is small scale farming and sustainable farming is achievable. People like Matt Turino and Jeff Hake have shown first hand what agriculture can look like if sustainability is at the core of the farms mission. Furthermore, Whitney Fowler helped to demonstrate that newly graduated students can find community positions that help to further a communities sustainability and grow necessary food for communities.

16. Describe the marketing material developed for promotion of your project, including but not limited to advertising (including digital) and/or signage related to this project. All marketing must include SSC's logo and/or a statement of which fee funded the project. Projects must coordinate with SSC to ensure the promotion appropriately highlights the SSC's contributions to the project. *

We created a graphic that was posted on our SSLC instagram and we then converted that graphic into a size that would fit digital signage. However, the digital signage was not submitted on time. Thus our only promotion was through our instagram. During the creation of the graphic we made sure to include the SSC logo and appropriately highlight SSC's involvement.

17. Upload project marketing and/or media not previously submitted in semester progress reports. *

 Sustainable Food Event_Ben English.pdf

18. Complete and upload the final financial documentation for your project. You should reflect all expenditures since your last semester project report. We strongly suggest that you also upload supporting financial documentation from Banner for your award's CFOP. Any remaining funds will be transferred back to the SSC. It is the sponsoring department's responsibility to close the CFOP after the account is at a zero balance.

<https://studentengagement.illinois.edu/sites/default/files/2024-09/SSC-Budget-Timeline-FINAL-PROJECT-REPORT-template.xlsx>

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