
**NEW YORK INSTITUTE
OF TECHNOLOGY**



**2021 - 2022
Annual Report**

Welcome

Dear New York Tech Community and External Partners,

Thank you for your interest and support of the Bear Bytes initiative at New York Institute of Technology. We are excited to share 2021-2022 information and updates in this annual report.

Initiated in spring 2020 at New York Tech's Long Island and New York City campuses, Bear Bytes provides food and other health and wellness resources and information to all students. A collaborative effort among campus partners, New York Tech Campus Dining Services, the School of Management Student Advisory Board, and community resources including Stop & Shop, Invisible Hands Deliver, Inc., and Food Bank For NYC, Bear Bytes promotes and supports the proper nutrition and wellness that are essential to academic success. The Bear Bytes committee of students, faculty, staff, and alumni are dedicated to creating health and wellness resources and events, establishing partnerships, and sharing university and community information that are responsive to student needs.

Students should not lack basic needs and resources and should be encouraged to incorporate physical, mental, and emotional wellness into their lifestyle. This report highlights the care, commitment, and creativity that our university community and external partners have demonstrated towards supporting our students. May Bear Bytes continue to thrive and succeed at positively impacting New York Tech students' personal, academic, and professional development.



With deepest gratitude,
Tiffani L. Hinds, M.S., Ed.M.

Dear New York Tech Community and Supporters,

Thank you for celebrating the second year of the amazing accomplishments from our Bear Bytes initiative with us!

We are dedicated to supporting students facing temporary or long term food insecurity and financial hardships as they try to focus on their academic achievements. Food, like water and shelter as a basic need, are necessary to staying healthy and feeling a sense of security.

The Grizzly Cupboard, located at both New York Campuses, is a friendly, safe, and inclusive place for students to access food and other resources crucial to their academic success. Whether you need a snack for the day while on campus or a bag of food and supplies, we are here to assist.

We are fortunate to have the partnership & monetary donations of students, faculty, staff, alumni and private donors who care deeply about student success. A very special THANK YOU to all who have contributed to the growth of this program during the last academic year.

As we look into the future and expanding our programs, offerings and services, we welcome your continued support. If this is your first time learning of the Bear Bytes initiative and are looking for more ways to get involved, please reach out to deanofstudents@nyit.edu. Again, THANK YOU from the bottom of our hearts to all of our committee members, donors, and allies as we continue the fight to a Hunger Free Campus.

Sincerely,
Dr. Felipe Henao
Dean of Students



Meet the Committee

The New York Tech community members listed below are committed to providing food and other health and wellness resources and information to students at our New York campuses.



Chelsea Authement
College of Arts & Sciences Student



Hannah Berling
Student Life Coordinator
Student Life



Amy Bravo
Senior Director, Career Success &
Experiential Education



Patricia Duran
Senior Director
Student Accounts



Kelli-Ann Francis
Student Support Specialist
Student Life



Victoria Greco
Director, Annual Giving
Development & Alumni
Relations



Mindy Haar
Chair, Interdisciplinary
Health Sciences
School of Health Professions



Tiffani Hinds
Assistant Provost for
Student Engagement & Developmen



Felipe Henao
Dean of Students
Student Life



Larabe Imran
School of Management Student
Student Government Association



Michael Lane
Senior Director of Research,
Assessment & Decision Support



Andrea Massop Ramos
Clinical Nutritionist and
Private Health Chef



Lorraine Mongiello
Associate Professor
School of Health Professions



Clarissa Shenocker
Student Support Specialist
Student Life



Joanne West
Director, Student Engagement
& Development Administration
and Operations

The 2021-2022 Year in Review



Fall 2021 Pantry Usage:
NYC: 89 people served / LI: 19 people served
Spring 2022 Pantry Usage:
NYC: 293 people served / LI: 53 people served



During the last 2 weeks of each semester, the pantries held open hours so anyone could visit and get supplies as needed.



In addition to non-perishable foods and toiletries, the pantries now distribute pet products and school supplies.



Local dentists Dr. Kelly Kalmar and Dr. Lawrence Lambroia donated over 300 toothbrushes and toothpastes for the pantries.

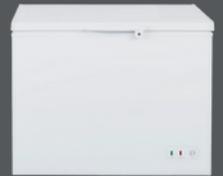


The Bear Bytes committee hosted several events during the academic year, including a guest speaker on food insecurity, a holiday meal distribution with REDSCAP*, and various informational tabling events.



Plans for next year include creating an on-the-go pantry on Long Island to bring bagged goods to other parts of campus and to expand the perishable food options in New York City.

In Spring 2022, The Food Bank of New York City donated a commercial refrigerator and a chest freezer to the NYC pantry so that perishable food can now be distributed!



“ I am very grateful for the pantry. Before I knew about the Grizzly Cupboard, I would spend my day worrying about what I was going to eat for dinner, or when I would eat. I believe with the support of the staff and New York Tech community that the Grizzly Cupboard can make an even bigger impact on the students' lives. I am able to focus in class because I feel secure in the fact that I have dinner.

- Student, Class of 2025

Grizzly Cupboard Grand Openings



On October 22, 2021, the New York Tech community celebrated the grand opening of the Grizzly Cupboard, the university's inclusive and confidential on-campus resource offering free, wholesome, and healthy non-perishable food items to students. Ceremonies taking place on the Long Island and New York City campuses included representatives from Stop & Shop as well as government officials and local media outlets.

"We want to ensure that there is a place for every student to learn and grow—and this is based on our mission to offer access to opportunity to all students," said New York Tech President Hank Foley, Ph.D. at the Long Island opening in the Student Activity Center. "Our promise to students is to provide an outstanding experience that empowers them to change the world, to solve 21st-century challenges, and to reinvent the future. We are grateful for the collaboration of so many and the generosity of partners on behalf of our students."

To support the university's goal, Stop & Shop, which has a longstanding history of giving back to the neighborhoods it serves with a focus on fighting hunger, has donated \$10,000 in gift cards to New York Tech to purchase food items to stock pantry shelves. The supermarket chain's location in Greenvale, N.Y., less than a mile from New York Tech's Long Island campus, is also placing a bin onsite so that shoppers can contribute items to the Grizzly Cupboard.

In New York City, former Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs Junius Gonzales, M.D., M.B.A., and Dean of Students Felipe Henao, Ed.D., were joined by New York State Assemblyperson Linda Rosenthal, among other community members and students.

"Addressing and supporting food insecurity among our students will aid in positive student success outcomes. Students should not experience hunger," said Henao. "We look forward to continuing to grow our support for basic needs and working with local officials to address the systemic issue."

The two Grizzly Cupboard locations are part of the Bear Bytes initiative, which provides students with food as well as health and wellness resources and information. Bear Bytes is a collaborative effort among partners including Stop & Shop and New York Tech's own Campus Dining, School of Management Student Advisory Board, and a committee whose members include nutrition experts from the School of Health Professions, among others.

The grand openings were covered by several media outlets, including [CBS 2 News](#), [Long Island Business News](#), [The Plainview Patch](#) and [Newsday](#).

Garden of Giving

In September 2021, Bear Bytes and the School of Health Professions received a \$5,000 National Association of College Auxiliary Services grant to support a community garden on the Long Island campus, which will provide fruits and vegetables to students through the Grizzly Cupboard. New York Tech's Campus Dining will also use the garden's fresh herbs in their meal preparations. New York Tech Real Estate Development and Sustainable Capital Planning Foreman Jimmy O'Rourke has meticulously grown and maintained this garden into a thriving and peaceful place on campus. His dedication to this garden and the New York Tech community is sincerely appreciated.

In addition to the grant, the community garden also received a \$250 donation from Hicks Nurseries in Westbury, NY thanks to the efforts of Senior Director of Student Accounts, Patricia Duran. The committee looks forward to the Summer and Fall harvests!



FCIQ-101 Service Learning

The Foundations of Inquiry Course (FCIQ 101-M05), taught by Senior Director of Career Success and Experiential Education Amy Bravo was aligned with the Bear Bytes initiative during the Spring 2022 semester. This class is a first year, core-curriculum course, that teaches interdisciplinary research and critical thinking skills. This course is based on service-learning, a method of learning where students apply theoretical learning to a project that addresses a social issue. Students were charged with analyzing Grizzly Cupboard user data to find patterns, identify gaps or peak times for use, and to make formal recommendations to the Bear Bytes Committee. On May 17, 2022 the class made a formal presentation to the Bear Bytes Committee.



The students recommended the following, which the committee will discuss as they head into the 2022-2023 Academic Year:

- Add more prominent signage around campus, particularly on campus directories.
- Conduct advertisement of campus resources within the pantries, such as counseling services, tutoring, and employment opportunities to further assist students who are in need.
- Increase the amount of general marketing efforts, including within new student admissions materials, on a dedicated tile on my.nyit.edu, and on the parent Facebook group.
- Provide students access to some simple kitchen utensils, such as can openers and microwaves.
- Provide ready-to-eat options, like the Sichuan Hot Pot Meal.



Thank you to these students for their ideas and efforts!

Special Thanks to Our Sponsors



Stop&Shop[®]



FOOD BANK
FOR NEW YORK CITY

HICKS
NURSERIES



**Invisible
Hands**

NEW YORK TECH

Campus Dining

