

	3. <i>“Roots over Retail: Exploring Food Access in Kentucky”</i> Utsa Seth, Berea College Ellie Lintelman-Nader, Berea College Lara Armstrong, Grow Appalachia	Powell 225
	<i>Session B: 11:35am – 12:20pm</i> 1. <i>“WellCare’s Community Connections Model, Food Partnerships and Programs”</i> Jarrod Roberts, WellCare Health Plans Linda Bates, WellCare Health Plans 2. <i>“Advocating for Food Security: Navigating State Government”</i> Jordan Ojile, Feeding Kentucky 3. <i>“Story Circles”</i> Rihs Stover, Eastern Kentucky University	Powell 220 Powell 224 Powell 225
12:20pm – 1:20pm	<i>Networking Lunch</i>	Powell Student Center 219
1:20pm – 2:20pm	<i>“S’More Community, Less Hunger: The CELTS Initiative to Fight Food Insecurities”</i> Mason Logan and Utsa Seth, Berea College	Powell Student Center 219
2:20pm – 2:30pm	<i>Break</i>	
2:30pm – 3:30pm	<i>LEGO Serious Play Reflection</i>	Powell Student Center 219
3:30pm – 4:00pm	<i>Poster Making for National Hunger & Homelessness Week</i>	Powell Student Center 219
4:00pm – 4:15pm	<i>Closing</i>	Powell Student Center 219

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Workshop/Presentation Descriptions

- *“The State of College Student Hunger at Eastern Kentucky University: Where we are and where we are going”*

Abbigail Hickey and Amanda Green, ECU

Drs. Green and Hickey are experts in college student food insecurity and strategies to address student hunger. In 2022, their work initiated the ECU Food Security Coalition, a group of 30+ stakeholders that meet each semester to discuss food insecurity among ECU students. ECU Food Security Coalition includes students, staff, faculty, administration, and community members. This group of stakeholders successfully increased SNAP enrollment, connected students with resources, set up food pantry outposts during finals week, and conducted a food security prevalence survey at ECU. In addition, members of this coalition successfully applied for and obtained the ability to offer SNAP benefits at a campus convenience store (making it the first school in Kentucky to do so). Drs. Green and Hickey offer their experiences on forming the coalition so that it can be replicated at other institutions.

- *“Using Food as Medicine Across Kentucky”*

Robin Kunkel, Kentucky Equal Justice Center/Kentucky Food Action Network

In this session, we will clarify what kinds of programs are included in Food as Medicine, share a brief overview of the campaign KFAN has been engaged in for the last 2 years, and then review the findings of our just recently completed Roadmap for Food is Medicine in Kentucky (including an assessment of the current landscape, strategies and best practices to incorporate it, and our recommendations for the state).

- *“Food Stories that Feed Change; ECU Students on Food, Identity, and Action”*

Alisha Mays, ECU

Amanda McCready, ECU

Theron Bell, ECU

Kadin Chiesi, ECU

This session explores the power of personal narrative and storytelling as a tool for examining issues of food security. Beginning in the classroom, students share their lives from the perspective of food-- reflecting on how we eat; what we eat; who we eat with; and why. As students delve into their own food stories— which are sometimes underscored by hunger, the process of storytelling offers a platform for understanding hunger within their own lived experiences, as well as the broader food system.

The presenters will share their food stories and the experience of documenting the narrative. Through their food stories, they reflect on the process of writing as a means of empowerment and advocacy and inspire others to confront and reframe issues of food insecurity within their communities.

This presentation will also explore how personal narrative can drive social change and underscore the critical link between narrative and policy. Presenters will reflect on how

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engaging with their food stories allows them to illuminate the complexities of food insecurity in Kentucky and consider avenues for meaningful change.

- *“Roots over Retail: Exploring Food Access in Kentucky”*

Utsa Seth, Berea College

Ellie Lintelman-Nader, Berea College

Lara Armstrong, Grow Appalachia

In today’s world, food can feel so far removed from its origins in the soil. Further, our system of food access only makes this relationship worse. Many of us live in Food Deserts: “areas where people have limited access to a variety of healthy and affordable food” (USDA). So, join us in thinking about the problem of food access through a fun game, get valuable insight from organizations working to address the challenges of food deserts, and come together to reflect on radical solutions to combat this pervasive problem.

- *“WellCare’s Community Connections Model, Food Partnerships and Programs”*

Jarrold Roberts, WellCare Health Plans

Linda Bates, WellCare Health Plans

WellCare’s Community Connections Model focuses on improving health outcomes by removing social barriers. This is accomplished by focusing where Health Equity and Quality needs intersect. Together with social service agencies, the team creates and expands innovative community-based equitable programs. This session will focus on food partnerships and programs the Community Connections team has completed across Kentucky.

- *“Advocating for Food Security: Navigating State Government”*

Jordan Ojile, Feeding Kentucky

This presentation will focus on the importance of state-level advocacy in securing food security for all Kentuckians. It will cover an introduction to civics, detailing the levels of government and their powers, with a breakdown of the Kentucky state legislature and its legislative process. The session will also provide practical tips on how to effectively advocate for hunger policy, including structuring conversations with legislators and employing persuasive lobbying techniques. Interactive quizzes will engage the audience, reinforcing the learning experience and ensuring active participation. The goal is to equip attendees with the tools and confidence to influence state-level policy and advocate for food security effectively.

- *“Story Circles”*

Rihs Stover

The group will gather and pass around the "speaking rock" to discuss topics surrounding food insecurity and their experiences, with "cross-talk" reflection at the end.

- *“S’More Community, Less Hunger: The CELTS Initiative to Fight Food Insecurities”*

Mason Logan and Utsa Seth, Berea College

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There is nothing that builds community like gathering around a campfire for a little food alongside sharing laughter, ideas, and stories. We at the Center for Excellence in Learning through Service (CELTS) strive to have this type of community in Berea through our initiatives to fight hunger. During this session, we will share some of our stories that illustrate how we understand our partnership and commitment to our broader community and how we've continued to adapt as partner and community needs change. This casual and conversational workshop will give everyone space to connect with one another and share your ideas and stories when it comes to fighting hunger insecurities so we can all continue to support our communities.



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