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## U-ACCESS & Phfeast – Food Security Partnership

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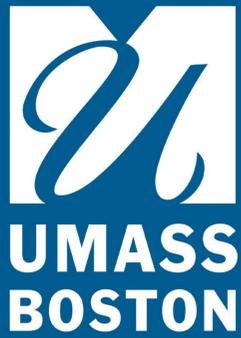
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# U-ACCESS & Phfeast – Food Security Partnership

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## U-ACCESS & Phfeast

The Office of Urban and Off-Campus Support Services, otherwise known as U-ACCESS, employs a multi-disciplinary approach to assist students who are dealing with a multitude of issues such as homelessness, emancipated from foster care, food insecurity and financial struggles. Phfeast, Inc. is a new start-up operating in the Venture Development Center and provides a restaurant loyalty program where customers earn dining gift cards for people in need.

## U-ACCESS Food Pantry

The U-ACCESS Food Pantry is one of several programs sponsored by the Office of Urban and Off-Campus Support Services (U-ACCESS). The purpose of the U-ACCESS Food Pantry is to supplement the food supply for any UMass Boston students experiencing hunger and struggling to buy food. College students who experience food insecurity often struggle to support themselves while working, attending classes and dealing with other life issues. U-ACCESS Food Pantry hopes to minimize food insecurity while UMass Boston students work toward completing their education.

## Food Security Partnership

U-ACCESS and Phfeast share an interest in improving food security for all members of the UMass Boston community. While U-ACCESS actively collaborates with other on-campus groups and programs, this is the first time that a for-profit member of the Venture Development Center start-up incubator at UMass Boston has worked with U-ACCESS to develop a custom dining program benefitting those students served by the food pantry.

Under the Phfeast loyalty program, customers dining at participating restaurants earn dining gift cards that will be donated to the U-ACCESS food pantry. These gift cards will allow students to dine for free at nearby restaurants thereby expanding their food budget and improving food security for themselves and their families.

## Intended Impact

Through this partnership U-ACCESS and Phfeast intend to raise awareness of food insecurity on campus and throughout the UMass Boston community.

We seek to promote a discussion of food availability and advocate for innovative solutions to food insecurity.

By inviting local restaurants to participate, we will support local businesses and distribute dining gift cards to students and families in need.

## Next Steps

We are presenting this program to local restaurants and enrolling those interested in a pilot program that will run throughout 2014.

## Partnership Information

[www.umb.edu/uaccess](http://www.umb.edu/uaccess)  
[phfeast.com](http://phfeast.com)

On Twitter:  
[@UACCESS\\_UMB](https://twitter.com/UACCESS_UMB)  
[@Phfeast](https://twitter.com/Phfeast)

