



MEDIA RELEASE

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CLINTON SCHOOL PRACTICUM TEAM TO EVALUATE ARKANSAS MEALS FOR ACHIEVEMENT GRANT PROGRAM

LITTLE ROCK, AR (September 3, 2015)– The Arkansas Hunger Relief Alliance has been chosen to work with a Clinton School of Public Service student practicum team to evaluate the impact of the Arkansas Meals for Achievement Pilot Grant program.

The Arkansas Hunger Relief Alliance helped initiate the pilot grant program (Act 383 of 2013). The act provides grant money to schools choosing to serve breakfast after the bell to all students at no charge. The grants complement federal school lunch funding and supplement the cost of providing a free breakfast to all students. The pilot grant program is aimed at increasing the number of students eating school breakfast and the positive benefits a nutritious breakfast provides vis-a-vis student health, attendance, behavior and academic achievement.

Of the more than 200 applicants, a total of 32 schools across the state have participated in the program in the 2013/14 and 2014/15 school years. Initial results show AMFA schools with an average growth in breakfast participation of 84 percent. Teachers, nurses, principals and parents have also reported improved classroom behavior, fewer trips to the school nurse, improved attendance and fewer tardies. The research of the Clinton School team will help validate these reports relative to schools that do not offer alternative breakfast delivery models.

The Clinton School team will expand the scope of research initiated by the 2014/15 practicum team and help support hunger relief policy recommendations aimed at improving student outcomes.

The 2015/2016 Clinton School of Public Service Practicum team:

Marsha Scullark
Hendrix College, (Dec. 2006)
B.A. Biology

Colbert Nelson
University of Tulsa (May. 2014)
B.S. Exercise Sports Science

Shem Ngwira
Catholic University-Malawi (April 2014)
B.A Political Leadership

Will VanLaningham

University of Arkansas (Dec. 2011)
B.A. Spanish & Philosophy

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About The Arkansas Hunger Relief Alliance

Arkansas Hunger Relief Alliance, lead partner in Arkansas for the No Kid Hungry campaign, is a non-profit collaborative network of more than 480 hunger relief organizations across Arkansas. Our founding members include the Arkansas Foodbank in Little Rock, the Food Bank of Northeast Arkansas in Jonesboro, Harvest Texarkana Regional Food Bank in Texarkana, Food Bank of North Central Arkansas in Norfolk, Northwest Arkansas Food Bank in Bethel Heights and River Valley Regional Food Bank in Fort Smith. The Alliance is dedicated to reducing hunger through direct relief, education and advocacy. We invite you to visit www.ARhungeralliance.org for details on hunger relief programs, donor and volunteer opportunities.