



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
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**FREE, FRESH FOOD ACCESS FOR WOODLAND COMMUNITY COLLEGE STUDENTS  
BEGINS NOVEMBER 5, THANKS TO YOLO FOOD BANK PARTNERSHIP**

Student food security at Woodland Community College will be enhanced beginning Tuesday, November 5 by a twice-monthly distribution of free fresh produce, dairy products, breads, and other grocery items, provided via a partnership with Yolo Food Bank.

“Our students can be successful academically only when their basic needs are being met,” stated Art Pimentel, President of Woodland Community College. “By availing our Woodland campus of these critical Yolo Food Bank resources, we are investing in nourishing our student body, both in mind and body.”

Approximately 1,000 pounds of food will be available to students from volunteer-staffed tables behind the 700 Building on the first Tuesdays and third Wednesdays of every month during the academic calendar. No qualifications or proof of income or citizenship are required for access, and there is no limit to how often students may attend distributions.

A resurgence of the student food pantry, featuring food items provided by Yolo Food Bank, also is underway. The pantry is accessible Monday through Friday; details are available at <https://wcc.yccd.edu/student/student-outreach-retention-office/foodpantry/>. The Woodland Sunrise Rotary has also served as a strong partner to the college by providing funding to create and stock the food pantry on campus.

Yolo Food Bank recovers food six days a week from major grocers, farmers, food processors, and distributors in Yolo County and makes this nutrition available in areas of high need throughout the county. In total, more than four million pounds of food currently is collected, stored, and distributed annually by Yolo Food Bank via more than

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80 food access sites and 72 nonprofit partner organizations, such as college campuses, food pantries, homeless and domestic violence shelters, senior meal delivery programs, migrant centers, and congregant meal programs. Woodland Community College will become the 25<sup>th</sup> ongoing distribution location in Woodland.

“With the addition of Woodland Community College, Yolo Food Bank now will provide free student nutrition to all university and community college students in Yolo County,” noted Michael Bisch, Executive Director of Yolo Food Bank. “In the past year, we already have developed robust relationships with the UC Davis Aggie Compass Basic Needs Center, the Associated Students of UC Davis Pantry, and Sacramento City College’s Davis and West Sacramento Centers. Food insecurity on college campuses deservedly has been in the spotlight over the past year, and meeting this need is one amongst many ways that Yolo Food Bank is shifting the nutritional paradigm of the county thanks to the capacity of our new, purpose-built food recovery facility.”

Bisch also noted that the Food Bank’s service to Woodland’s educational community begins as early as the pre-school and elementary school years. Yolo Food Bank’s “Kids Farmers Market” program is offered at Ark Preschool, as well as on the Dingle and Whitehead Elementary School sites.

Yolo Food Bank moved in March to a 300% larger location at 233 Harter Avenue in Woodland. The organization’s goal during for its first year in the building is to increase both food recovery and distribution by 50%, as operations eventually scale-up to meet the county’s full food security need. Nearly 20% of residents live in poverty according to county statistics, requiring more than double the annual food activity currently generated by the Food Bank.

President Pimentel has identified a closing of the “equity gap” to increase educational opportunities, and an interest in building bridges with community leaders, as continued goals for Woodland Community College. He views this collaboration with Yolo Food Bank as a step toward fulfilling these objectives.

“This institution is fortunate to have the support of a resource-rich community,” observed Pimentel. “Our developing partnership with Yolo Food Bank is a model for the many possibilities that exist to create and expand opportunities for our students.”

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**WOODLAND COMMUNITY COLLEGE/YOLO FOOD BANK**

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Together with a network of nearly 200 partners, Yolo Food Bank presently serves the needs of 23,000 Yolo County residents making 55,000 food access visits each month. Funds, food and time are needed to sustain and increase these efforts. To donate, volunteer or learn more, please visit [www.yolofoodbank.org](http://www.yolofoodbank.org).

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