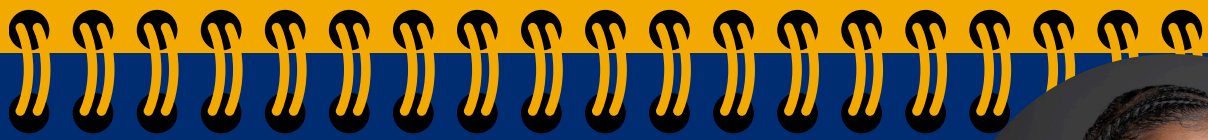




2023-2024 Annual Report





Welcome Message



Dear New York Tech Community, External Partners, and Supporters,

The Bear Bytes initiative has provided our students at the New York campuses with food and other health and wellness resources and information for four years. Initiated in spring 2020 at New York Tech's Long Island and New York City campuses, Bear Bytes continues to be a collaborative effort among campus partners, New York Tech Campus Dining Services, School of Health Professions, Bursar, Capital Planning & Facilities, and community resources including Stop & Shop and the Food Bank For NYC. The initiative is also a new recipient of New York State's Community Food Connection Grant. The Bear Bytes initiative focuses on promoting proper nutrition and overall wellness, which are crucial for both academic and personal success. Our committee, made up of students, faculty, staff, and alumni, is dedicated to providing health and wellness resources, hosting events, building partnerships, and distributing information that directly address student needs.

This year, we instituted an inaugural Basic Needs Survey to better understand the food and housing experiences of our students at the New York and Vancouver campuses. With a 20% survey response rate, we are eager to share these valuable insights with our campus partners in the coming months and to explore ways to address student needs. I am also excited to highlight that our fundraising efforts resulted in a 37% increase, from \$39,397.58 raised last year to \$53,858.31 raised in the 2023-24 academic year. This upcoming year, we look forward to a new partnership with Long Island Harvest and continuing to build new resource partnerships to ensure the sustainability of our Grizzly Cupboard. We are excited to present the 2023-2024 information and updates in this annual report, showcasing the ongoing care, dedication, and innovation our university community and external partners have demonstrated in supporting our students.

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



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.



Hannah Berling
Student Life Coordinator
Student Life



Patricia Duran
Senior Director
Student Accounts



Mindy Haar
Chair, Interdisciplinary
Health Sciences
School of Health Professions



Felipe Henao
Dean of Students
Student Life



Tiffani Hinds
Associate Provost for
Student Engagement &
Development



Harminderjeet Kaur
Student Support Specialist
Student Life



Andrea Massop Ramos
Clinical Nutritionist and
Private Health Chef



Malaika Malik
College of Engineering &
Computing Sciences
Student Government Association



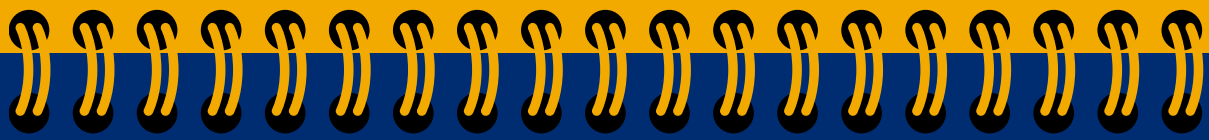
Lorraine Mongiello
Associate Professor
School of Health Professions



Victoria Neubauer
Senior Major Gift Officer
Development & Alumni
Relations



Joanne West
Director, Student Engagement
& Development Administration and
Operations



Year in Review



Fall 2023 Grizzly Cupboard Campus Usage

- 510 NYC appointments (Up 26% from last Fall)
- 75 LI appointments (Up 15% from last Fall)

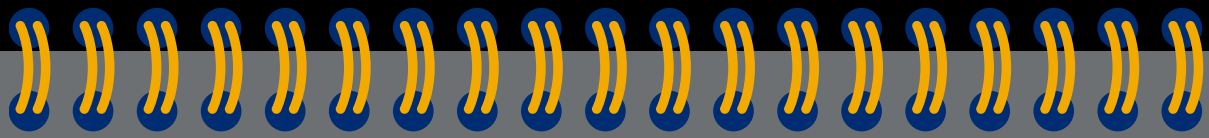
Spring 2024 Grizzly Cupboard Campus Usage

- 686 NYC appointments (Up 32% from last Spring)
- 86 LI appointments (Up 31% from last Spring)

Bear Bytes hosted several events during the year including a garden tour, period power event, monthly pop-up farmer's markets, a holiday meal distribution, a "Price is Right" game show, and various informational tabling events.

A **Basic Needs Survey** was distributed to the Long Island, New York City and Vancouver campuses to evaluate our students in terms of an array of basic needs security markers. A comprehensive breakdown of the collected data can be found in the appendix. Special thanks to Hannah Berling, Assistant Director of Student Engagement, and Kim Kramer-Romero, Associate Director of Institutional Effectiveness, for their efforts with this project.

The Bear Bytes Committee introduced a new fundraiser this year called **Paws for a Cause**. For a \$5 donation, community members could share a picture of their pet and enter for a chance to win the cutest New York Tech Pet Contest. Winners were featured on New York Tech's social media, and all donations went directly to support Bear Bytes.



2023-2024 Fundraising

Thank you to our generous donors and successful fundraising events!

Academic Convocation

Aboff's Paints

Swipe Out Hunger Grant

Community Food Connections Grant:

Palentine's Day Fundraiser

Faculty Development Day

Hick's Nurseries

St. Francis Hospital Staff

Stop & Shop

TransferMate

Big Give

Paws for a Cause

Donations from Career Success and Experiential Education efforts

Student Government Association Club Donations

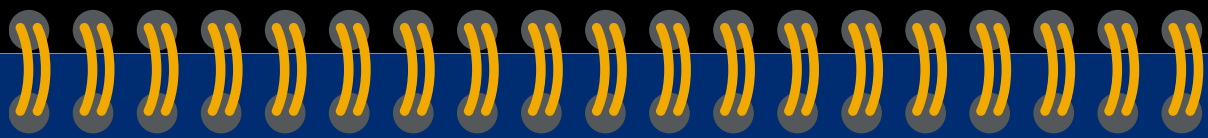
Staff & Faculty Payroll Deductions

Total Raised Last Academic Year: \$39,397

Fundraising Goal for 2023-2024: \$50,000

Total Fundraised for 2023-2024: \$53,858.31





Looking Ahead to 2024-2025

There are several new initiatives planned for the 2024-2025 Academic Year. Some of these include:

- Roll out of PantrySoft: PantrySoft software helps food pantries manage all aspects of operation, from inventory logistics to client intake and reporting. The platform simplifies inventory management and provides easy access to resources for students with busy schedules. The system is highly flexible and customizable, and protects student privacy.
- Island Harvest: The Long Island campus will begin a partnership with Island Harvest which is among the region's foremost agencies in emergency response readiness for food, product, resource distribution and support, and a member of Feeding America, the nation's leading domestic hunger-relief organization.
- Period Equity Project: With the support of colleagues from Academic Affairs and Capital Planning and Facilities, we are excited to extend Aunt Flow period products to the Long Island and New York City campuses. During the 2024-2025 Academic Year, approximately 20 period product dispensers will be installed across the campuses.
- The Bear Bytes Committee has again set a donation goal of \$50,000 for the coming academic year.



Interested in Donating?

There are several convenient ways
to support our pantries:

[Amazon Wish List](#)

[Faculty & Staff Payroll Deduction](#)

[Make a Direct Donation](#)

Non-perishable donations
can be delivered to:

Student Activities Center,
2nd Floor Suite in Long Island

or

26 W. 61st Street,
1st Floor Suite in New York City

[Learn more about Bear Bytes here.](#)

NEW YORK TECH

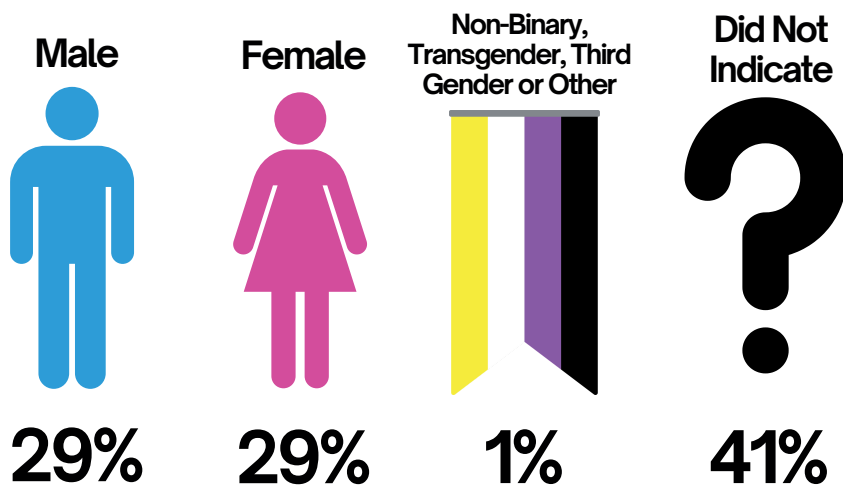
Basic Needs Survey Data

Understanding the needs of our students

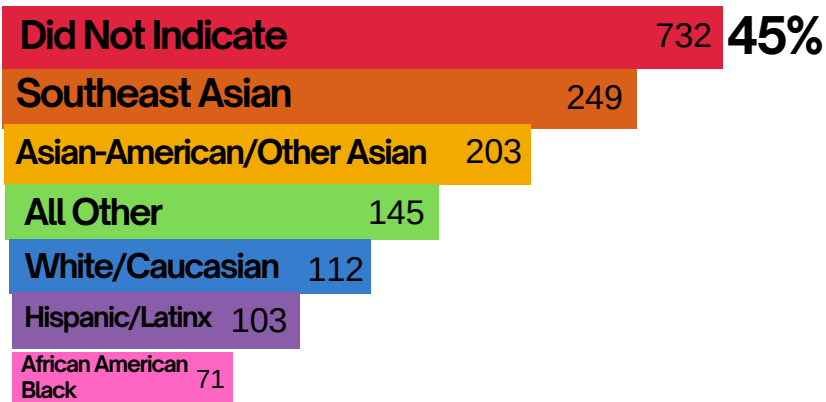
What Is the Basic Needs Survey?

The Basic Needs Survey, conducted from March 4 - April 5, 2024, was offered to students at the New York and Vancouver campus with the goal of anonymously obtaining baseline measurements of the student population regarding an array of basic needs security markers.

Demographics of Respondents

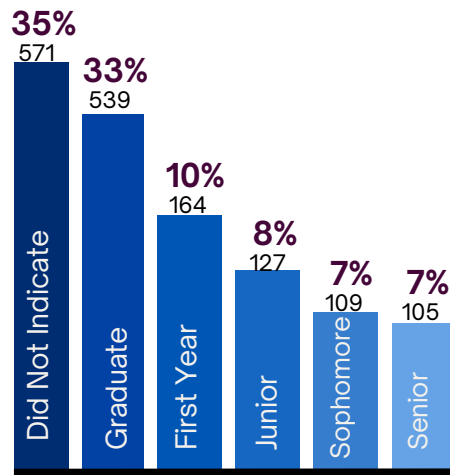
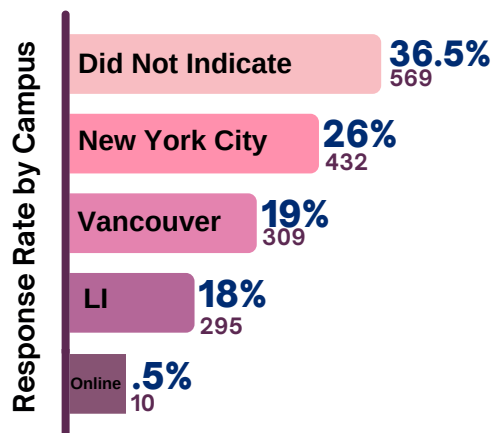


Highest rates of response by Race/Ethnicity

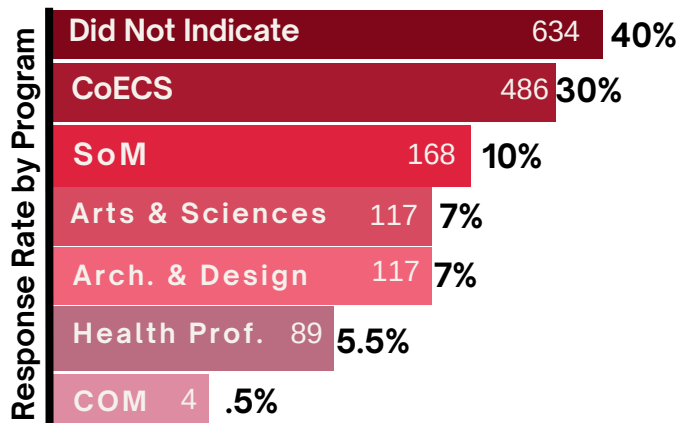


20%
N = 1,250

Total Campus Response Rate



Response Rate by Program



Food Security Data

What is food security & how is it measured?

The food security status of each household lies somewhere along a continuum extending from high food security to very low food security. This continuum is divided into four ranges, characterized as follows:

High Food Security: Households had no problems, or anxiety about, consistently accessing adequate food.

Marginal Food Security: Households had problems at times, or anxiety about, accessing adequate food, but the quality, variety, and quantity of their food intake were not substantially reduced.

Low Food Security: Households reduced the quality, variety, and desirability of their diets, but the quantity of food intake and normal eating patterns were not substantially disrupted.

Very Low Food Security: At times during the year, eating patterns of one or more household members were disrupted and food intake reduced because the household lacked money and other resources for food.

Total Food Security Rates

n = 1250

27%

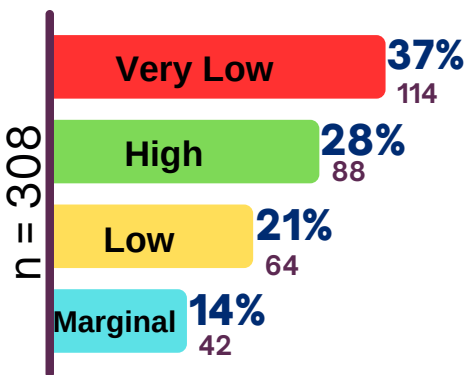
20%

30%

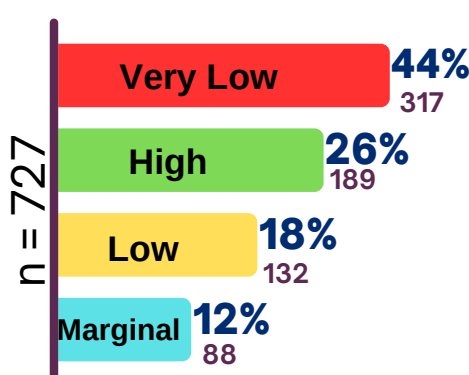
23%

Food Security Rates By Location

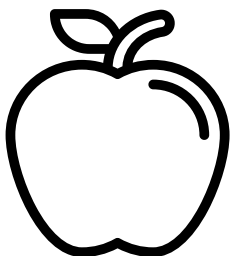
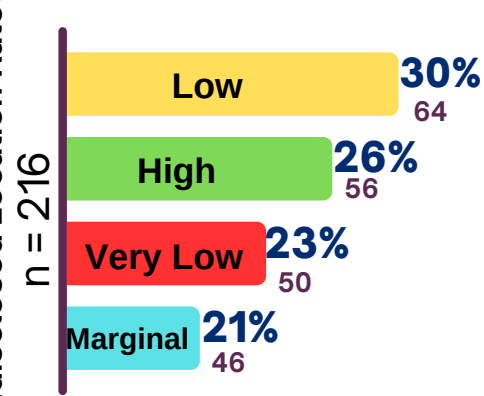
Vancouver Rates



New York Rates



Undisclosed Location Rates



In the last 12 months, were you ever hungry but didn't eat because there wasn't enough money for food? (n = 1250)

Yes
38% (483)

No
62% (767)

Housing Security & Homelessness Data



What do we mean by housing security & homelessness?

Housing Security looks at how stable your housing is, your ability to pay for housing. Those with low - very low housing security are considered "housing insecure." "Housing insecurity" is an umbrella term that encompasses several dimensions of housing problems people may experience, including affordability, safety, quality, insecurity, and loss of housing.

Homelessness is determined by two questions within the survey. One is a self-identifying questions simply asking "In the past 12 months, have you ever been homeless?". A second question asks respondents to click all their housing situations that apply over the past year. From these choices, anyone who selected any responses from E-M are identified as having experienced homelessness. The difference in the self-indication and the specified question will show some respondents who have experienced a form of homelessness and didn't realize it, or saw a situation they were in as a form of homelessness that is not considered as such.

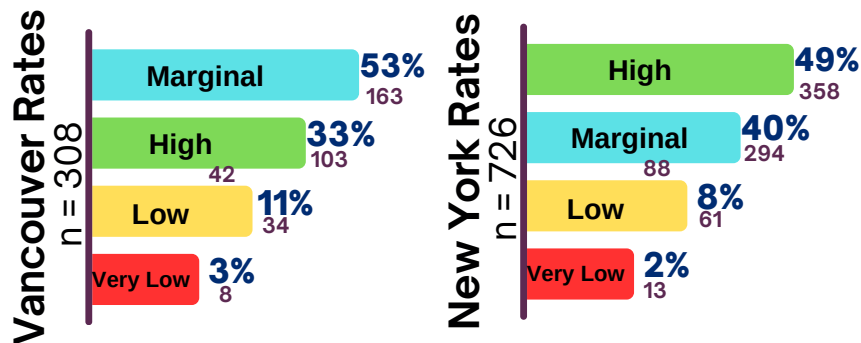
Total Housing Security Rates

Category	# of Respondents	Percentage
Total Respondents	1053	100%
High Housing Security	468	45%
Marginal Housing Security	467	45%
Low Housing Security	96	9%
Very Low Housing Security	22	2%
Combined Low - Very low	118	11%

Total Homelessness Data

Category	# of Respondents	Percentage
Total Respondents	1055	100%
Answers indicate no instances of homelessness in the past year	874	83%
Self-identified as having experienced homelessness in the last 12 months	40	4%
Responses indicated having experienced one or more forms of homelessness in the last year	181	17%
Self-identified as having experienced homelessness in the last 12 months, but further responses did not indicate homelessness	17	1.6%

Housing Security Rates By Location



Homelessness Data By Location

Category	NY #	NY %	VAN #	VAN %
Total Respondents	726	100%	308	100%
Answers indicate no instances of homelessness in the past year	628	87%	289	94%
Self-identified as having experienced homelessness in the last 12 months	25	3%	13	4%
Responses indicated having experienced one or more forms of homelessness in the last year	98	13%	19	6%
Self-identified as having experienced homelessness in the last 12 months, but further responses did not indicate homelessness	10	1%	10	3%

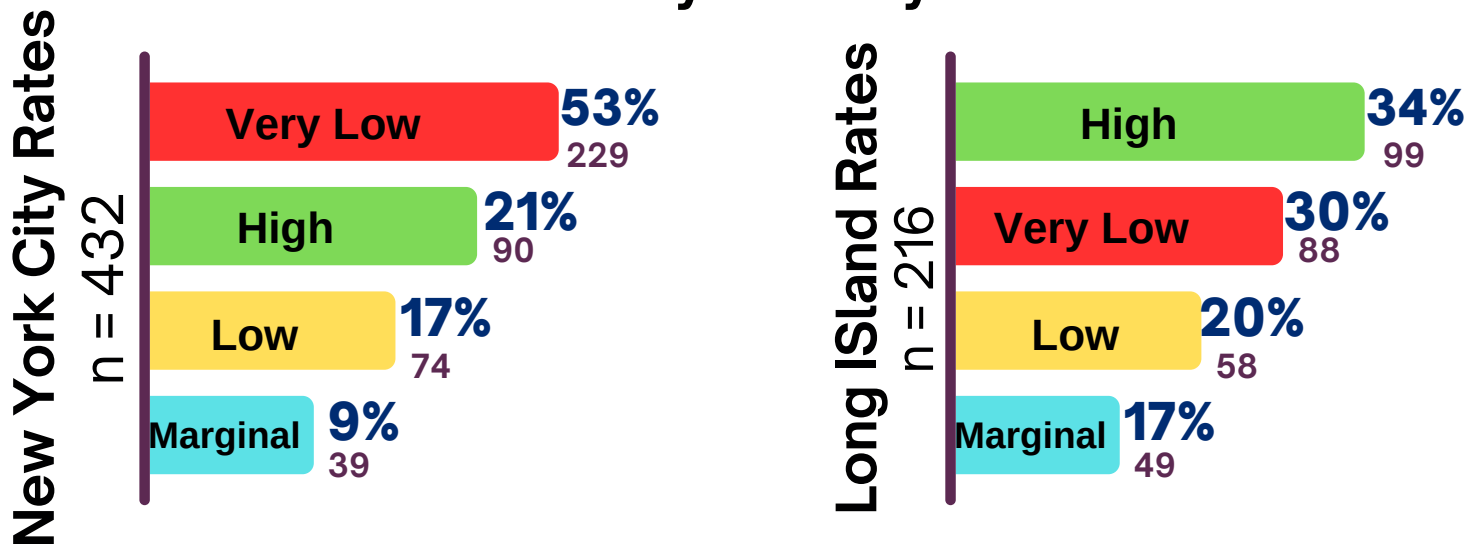
In the past 12 months, was there a rent or mortgage increase that made it difficult to pay?
(n=1250)



New York: NYC Campus vs. Long Island Campus

A breakdown of the New York Campus Data to separate between New York City and Long Island

Food Security Rates By Location



Homelessness Data By Location

Category	FULL SURVEY		COMBINED NEW YORK		NEW YORK CITY		LONG ISLAND	
	# of Respondents	Percentage	NY #	NY %	NYC #	NYC %	LI #	LI %
Total Respondents	1055	100%	726	100%	432	100%	294	100%
Answers indicate no instances of homelessness in the past year	874	83%	628	87%	361	84%	267	91%
Self-identified as having experienced homelessness in the last 12 months	40	4%	25	3%	18	4%	7	2%
Responses indicated having experienced one or more forms of homelessness in the last year	181	17%	98	13%	71	16%	27	9%
Self-identified as having experienced homelessness in the last 12 months, but further responses did not indicate homelessness	17	1.6%	10	1%	8	2%	2	1%

Housing Security Rates By Location

