

NEW YORK INSTITUTE
OF TECHNOLOGY

BEAR
BYTES

BEAR BYTES

ANNUAL REPORT

2024-2025



DR. TIFFANI L. HINDS
Associate Provost
Student Engagement and Development

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

The Bear Bytes initiative focuses on promoting proper nutrition and holistic wellness, which are crucial for both academic performance and personal development. Our committee, composed of students, faculty, and staff, is dedicated to providing health and wellness resources, hosting events, building partnerships, and distributing information that directly addresses student needs.

For the past five years, the Bear Bytes initiative has been a vital force in supporting student health and wellness across our New York campuses. Launched 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, School of Health Professions, Bursar & Student Accounts, Capital Planning & Facilities, and community resources including Stop & Shop and the Food Bank For NYC. The initiative is also a recipient of New York State's Community Food Connection Grant.

This year brought exciting growth. Informed by the 2024 Basic Needs Survey, we revamped several food pantry operations to better serve students - most notably launching PantrySoft, an online ordering system, where members of the Grizzly Cupboard can shop virtually using real time inventory and schedule their pre-packaged pick-up orders at our New York campuses. Additionally, our fundraising efforts continue to result in annual increases, climbing almost 16% from \$53,858.31 last year to an impressive \$62,327.40 raised in the 2024-2025 academic year.

Looking ahead, we are gearing up to enhance the student experience with continuing to simplify access to food and wellness resources on the campuses, expanding our partnerships, and building a sustainable future for the Grizzly Cupboard resource and food pantry.

We are proud to share the highlights and impact of our work in this year's annual report—a celebration of care, collaboration, and unwavering dedication to student success.

With deepest gratitude,

Tiffani Hinds



WELCOME MESSAGE

THE BEAR BYTES COMMITTEE

The New York Tech community members listed below are committed to providing food and other health and wellness resources to students at our New York campuses.



Hannah Berling
Assistant Director
Student Life



Malaika Malik
Undergraduate Student
College of Engineering & Computing
Sciences



Patricia Duran
Senior Director
Student Accounts



Andrea Massop Ramos
Clinical Nutritionist &
Private Health Chef



Mindy Haar
Chair
Interdisciplinary Health Sciences
School of Health Professions



Lorraine Mongiello
Associate Professor
School of Health Professions



Felipe Henao
Dean of Students
Student Life



Victoria Neubauer
Senior Major Gift Officer
Development, Alumni Relations &
External Affairs



Jonathan Henry
Undergraduate Student
College of Engineering & Computing
Sciences



Kelly O'Malley
Student Support Specialist
Student Life



Tiffani Hinds
Associate Provost
Student Engagement and
Development



Rebecca Vicente
Director of Annual Giving &
Campaign Operations
Development, Alumni Relations &
External Affairs



Cybirle Jean Pierre
Undergraduate Student
School of Architecture & Design



Joanne West
Director
Student Engagement and
Development Administration and
Operations



Keerthi Kapavarapu
Undergraduate Student
College of Engineering & Computing
Sciences



MEET THE COMMITTEE

BEAR BYTES YEAR IN REVIEW

- New York City hosted 7 Produce Days, where approximately 12,000 pounds of fresh produce was distributed.
- The Long Island campus began 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.
- Retired Capital Planning and Facilities Foreman Jimmy O'Rourke now tends to the campus garden seasonally to harvest fresh produce and herbs for the community.
- Bear Bytes is hosting virtual office hours. Once a month, students can join to discuss any additional needs, complete basic needs pre-screeners, etc.



**\$62,327.40
FUNDRAISED**

The committee exceeded their \$50,000 fundraising goal for the academic year!



**PANTRYSOFT IS
ROLLED OUT**

The NYC and LI Grizzly Cupboards now use PantrySoft for all operations. 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.

2024/2025 NYC Grizzly Cupboard Data

- Total Registered Users: 391
- Peak Usage: October 2024
- Total visits: 1,437
- Pounds of food distributed: 19,177.37
- Quantity of items distributed: 24,107
- Top items distributed: Granola bars, pasta and rice, cereal, and dry beans

2024/2025 LI Grizzly Cupboard Data

- Total Registered Users: 67
- Peak Usage: March 2025
- Total Visits: 28
- Pounds of food distributed: 3,396.64
- Quantity of items distributed: 928
- Top item types distributed: Toiletries and Household Products

AUNT FLOW PROJECT



Beginning in early 2025, New York Tech began partnering with Aunt Flow to provide easy-to-use dispensers with period products in select restrooms on the New York campuses. By funding this initiative, New York Tech will ensure access to essential period products while supporting a clean and inclusive restroom environment. Between February and June 2025, this program distributed 15,000 period products to the New York Tech community.

Many thanks to our partners in Academic Affairs, Capital Planning and Facilities, and Financial Affairs, who helped shepherd this project.

[Learn more about Aunt Flow.](#)

2024-2025 FUNDRAISING



Thank you to our generous donors and successful fundraising events!



Academic Convocation
Aboff's Paints
Community Food Connections Grant
Palentine's Day Fundraiser
Faculty Development Day
Hick's Nurseries
Stop & Shop
TransferMate
Big Give
Paws for a Cause
Staff & Faculty Payroll Deductions



Total Raised Last Academic Year: \$53,858.31
Fundraising Goal for 2024-2025: \$50,000
Total Fundraised for 2024-2025: \$62,327.40

LOOKING AHEAD TO 2025-2026



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

- Meal kits are coming to the Grizzly Cupboards! These kits will contain fully shelf-stable ingredients and a recipe card with instructions to prepare the meals. This is an effort to help students make informed decisions regarding what items to choose from the pantry and how to utilize them.
- We will be releasing the *Grizzly Cupboard Handbook* as an easy reference for students on how our pantries function, where our funding comes from, how to utilize PantrySoft, and additional resources/websites/apps to assist with alleviating food costs.
- Bear Bytes will honor Hunger & Homelessness Week in November 2025. The committee will host a kitchen utensil drive so that we can stock some basic kitchen utensils and supplies that students will be able to select from our inventory.
- The Bear Bytes Committee has again set a fundraising 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 and Staff Payroll Deduction](#)

[Make a Direct Donation](#)

Non-perishable donations
can be delivered to:

Student Activity Center,
2nd Floor Suite in Long Island or
26 W. 61st Street,
1st Floor Suite in New York City

[Learn more about Bear Bytes.](#)