Learning to End Hunger, Statewide Initiative of the New Jersey Higher Education Service Learning Consortium.

The New Jersey Higher Education Service Learning Consortium with Rutgers APP Office as the lead member and in collaboration with the Bonner Foundation, developed a proposal aimed at reducing hunger and food insecurity in the state of New Jersey. The "Learning to End Hunger" campaign pulls together the student volunteer and service learning resources of colleges and universities across the state. In addition to Rutgers other participating institutions include among others Montclair State University, Raritan Valley Community College, Brookdale Community College, Ramapo College, Bergen Community College, and the Richard Stockton College of New Jersey. This marks the first time that a concerted service effort in a particular issue area has been made by these institutions.

The initiative aims to support the efforts of the New Jersey Anti-Hunger Coalition's "Campaign to End Childhood Hunger by 2015" through increased participation in federally-funded nutrition programs providing volunteer support and knowledge for increased number of farm-to-school initiatives and community, and research in the areas of food assessment, nutrition, and sustainability. The campaign also connects students across campuses engaged in this work to deepen the impact on the state.

Rutger's first World Food Forum featured Community Food Activist—Mark Winne
On October 16, 2009, the Office of the Associate Vice President for Academic and Public Partnerships sponsored the World Food Forum as the kick-off event for the "Learning to End Hunger" campaign of the New Jersey Higher Education Service Learning Consortium. The keynote speaker, Mark Winne, related examples of empowered communities who had created sustainable, local food systems outside of the current industrial food system as well as the need for communities to work in concert with government agencies and local farmers. In addition to Mark Winne, Dr. Joe Rubenstein from Richard Stockton College and Dr. Larry Katz from Rutgers Against Hunger spoke about their scholarship. Lisanne Finston, Executive Director of Elijah's Promise shared best practices of campus-community partnerships.

Over 100 students, faculty members, staff from over 20 different New Jersey colleges and universities attended to learn about how to implement food stamp outreach projects, farm-to-school and community gardens, and the use of the wiki to stay connected in the "Learning to End Hunger" Campaign. Representatives from several government agencies including the Food Stamp Outreach, the Governor's Office on Volunteerism, and the Corporation for National and Community Service were in attendance along with many local community partners. The event was co-sponsored by Rutgers Against Hunger, the Bonner Foundation, Elijah's Promise and the New Jersey Higher Education Service Learning Consortium.