

20
21

STUDENT BASIC NEEDS COALITION

ANNUAL REPORT



SBNC

Student Basic Needs Coalition

LETTER FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

D

ear SBNC Community and Higher Education Equity Advocates,

My name is Owen Flomberg and I serve as the Executive Director of the Student Basic Needs Coalition (SBNC). I have been serving in this capacity since we founded the organization in the summer of 2020. Over the past two and a half years, SBNC has grown to become a leading organization in the fight for college equity, and the only such major national organization led by students and recent graduates. We are a scrappy organization that has overcome many hurdles just to exist. However, as you will see in the following pages of this report, the last year was an incredible year for growth!

As I am approaching the end of my career as a “student” myself, I am so enthusiastic and energized about the impact of our work and how it was designed from the start from a student perspective. Changing anything about the broken system of higher education in our county is a daunting and seemingly impossible task. No one campus policy, piece of legislation, or executive action will solve the societal failures of higher education. Our model of organizing and advocacy accounts for that, and we are focused on empowering students and young people to enact sometimes seemingly small changes, because those actions have ripple effects that will help shift higher education in a direction that is more accessible and more equitable to all people regardless of who they are and how much money they have.

I would like to thank all the members of the National Team, our Board of Directors, and most importantly the many students and young people who are doing the work on the ground to demand that higher education is accessible to everyone who seeks it. We have so much more work to do, but I am ecstatic about the direction we are headed, because with your continued support we will be able to expand our work from here!

Thank you!



Owen Flomberg
Executive Director - SBNC

TABLE OF CONTENTS

- 2 Letter from the Executive Director
- 3 Who we are
- 4 Momentum Institute information
- 5 Chapter information
- 6 State Coalition information
- 7 Financials/Supporters
- 8 Student quotes

WHAT WE STAND FOR

Vision:

Higher education is a right and should be accessible to all.

Mission:

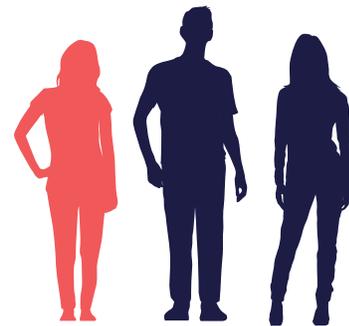
To empower aspiring, current, and former college students to advocate for a financially inclusive higher education system

Values:

Inclusion, Sustainability, and Allyship

OUR HISTORY

The Student Basic Needs Coalition started as a student organization at the University of Tennessee, Knoxville in 2019. The group originally formed to advocate for solutions to student food insecurity, but quickly found that students on their campus and campuses across the country were facing barriers to food, housing, health, and safety that prevented them from finishing their degrees. In 2020, SBNC at UTK joined forces with a similar group at NC State to launch the Student Basic Needs Coalition as a national nonprofit. We've since grown our organization from a presence on 2 campuses to involvement from youth advocates in 15 states. Our student leaders have designed projects ranging from collecting data on food insecurity to implementing free menstrual products, all of which have impacted over 90,000 students... and we are just getting started!



OUR NETWORK

15 States

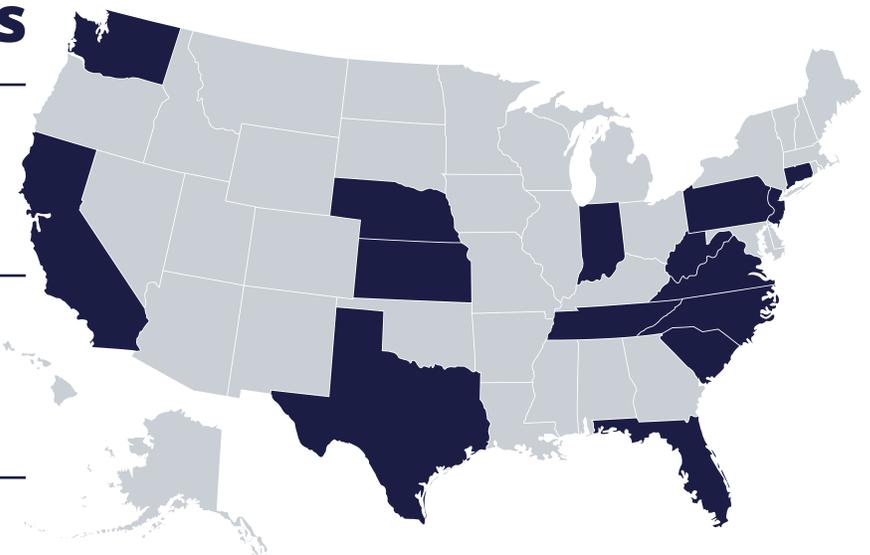
5 Chapters

5 State Coalitions

8 Momentum Fellows

90,000 Students Impacted

1 in 3 college students are at risk of dropping out but we believe that students have the power to change this





MOMENTUM INSTITUTE

The Momentum Institute is a grassroots organizing and advocacy incubator program that provides emerging higher education advocates the tools necessary to lead successful Campaigns for Change. Momentum Fellows work at either the campus or state level to improve educational equity on their campus and within their state. The 10 week program includes a weekly one hour class as well as assignments and out of class simulations designed to prepare Momentum Fellows to advocate for the adoption of the legislation or campus policy they develop.

“SBNC has helped motivate me to solve an issue that can change the lives of so many. I learned the importance of coalition building and identifying best practices for campaigning on an issue.”

— Abe Lemus
Emporia State University

“I really enjoyed having a community of like minded individuals who are interested in bettering our systems of higher education and making it more accessible.”

— Isabella Aguilar
Pitzer College

2022 MOMENTUM FELLOWS

Our fellows will be working on exciting campaigns and learning how to create sustainable change in the fight for accessible higher education.

Abraham Lemus	Nainaa Oberoi
Anjana Kailasanath	Nickelliot Yadir Veloz-Gallardo
Isabella Aguilar	Nina Mims
Joshua McCray	Olivia Bryant
Saisunee Moonsatan	Sarah Shapiro



100% of participants feel that this program improved their confidence in their ability to make higher education more equitable



89% of participants feel that this program improved their confidence in their knowledge of community organizing



89% of participants feel that this program improved their confidence in their leadership skills



CAMPUS CHAPTERS

Through our chapter program, students build a localized network of activists on their campus, supported by our advocacy curriculum and funding opportunities. Chapters function to expand awareness of student basic needs and financial insecurity on their campus, build community between campus organizations with similar missions, and develop campaigns for improving college affordability and graduation rates for all students. Chapters host events such as movie screenings about campus hunger, food deliveries for home-bound students, and town halls to facilitate cross-group collaboration.

“Not only has SBNC given me the opportunity to grow as a leader on my campus, but it has taught me the power of student advocacy and elevating student voices for change.”

— Ashlyn Anderson
University of Tennessee, Knoxville



Held 22 events aimed to increase awareness of student basic needs, build collaboration with similar organizations, and influence positive change on campus



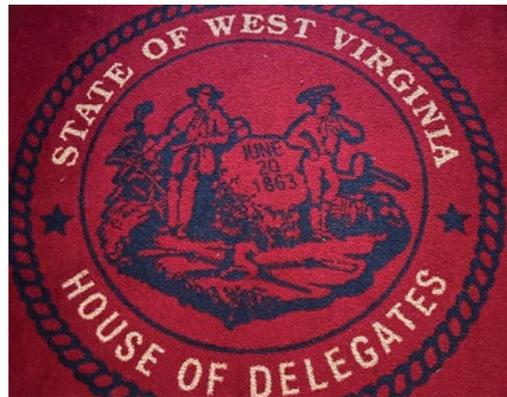
Partnered with over 20 other campus organizations

Engaged over **150 students**



Awards Won
2021-2022 Student Organization of the Year

2021-2022 Environmental Leadership Student Organization



STATE COALITIONS

Our state coalition program guides students through the process of drafting and introducing their own bill in their state legislature. Via a combination of 1:1 mentorship and hands-on experience, participants become skilled at legislative development, drafting, and advocacy. This unique program encourages civic engagement and active participation in state government, as well as promoting a strong understanding of the legislative process.

“ I have learned how to draft legislation, make important and impactful connections with state legislators and other statewide organizations, how to conduct proper research on basic needs within a state, and how important our mission actually is!”

— Joanna Switala
West Virginia University



1 law passed
in Tennessee



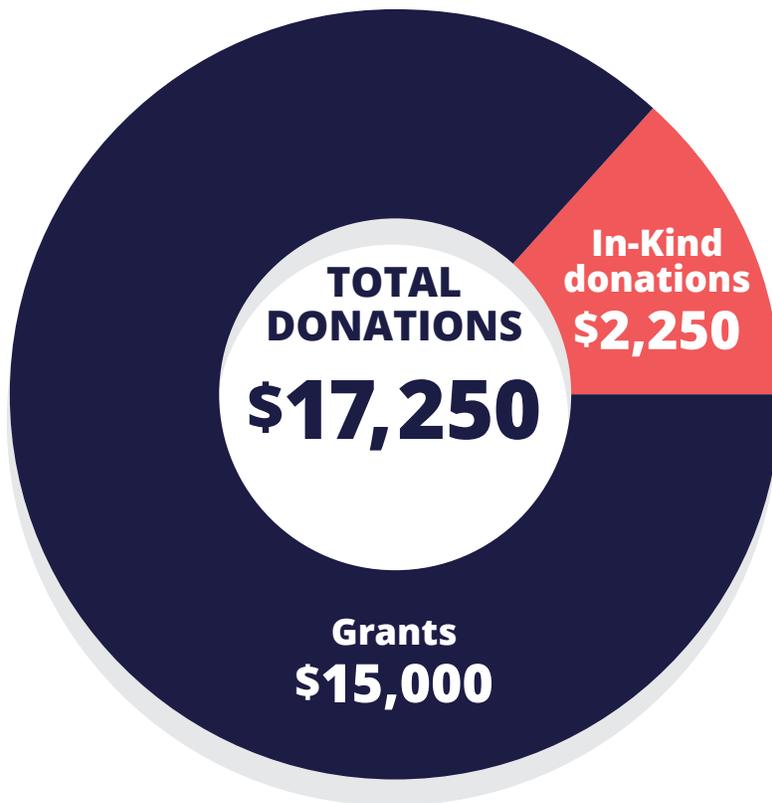
Bill introduced
in West Virginia

Ten For Tennessee

Our Tennessee Coalition's policy even received an award! The Education Trust's Ten For Tennessee award recognizes the top 10 policy and budget proposals that best advance education equity.



FINANCIALS



GRANTORS



OTHER PARTNERS



PRESS COVERAGE

Forbes

- <https://www.forbes.com/sites/amandanguyen/2021/11/18/choose-between-graduating-or-putting-food-on-the-table/?sh=4bf85f8d42ef>

knox news.

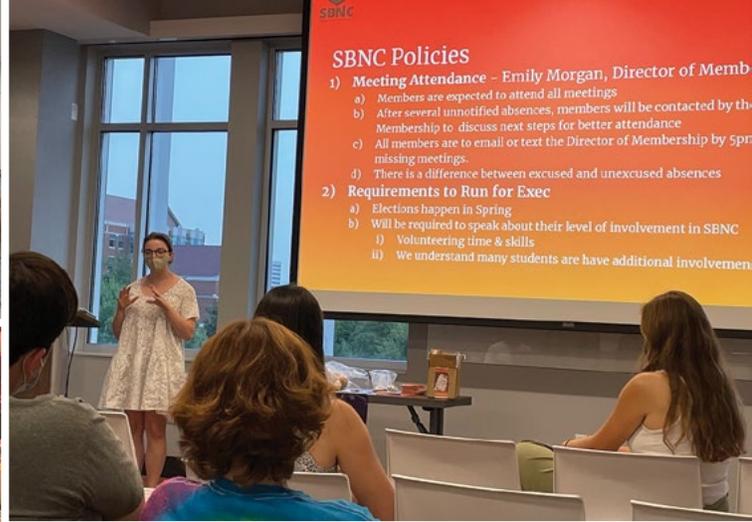
- <https://www.knoxnews.com/story/news/education/2022/04/15/what-tennessee-colleges-doing-fight-food-insecurity-campus/7119972001/>



- https://www.utdailybeacon.com/campus_news/safety/student-basic-needs-coalition-fights-food-housing-insecurity-on-campus/article_68584a28-88fb-11ec-84cc-478fbcf990d0.html

the johns hopkins NEWS-LETTER

- <https://www.jhunewsletter.com/article/2022/04/sga-endorses-permanent-snap-eligibility-expansion-at-weekly-meeting>



SBNC Policies

- 1) Meeting Attendance - Emily Morgan, Director of Membership
 - a) Members are expected to attend all meetings
 - b) After several unnotified absences, members will be contacted by the Membership to discuss next steps for better attendance
 - c) All members are to email or text the Director of Membership by 5pm on the day of missing meetings.
 - d) There is a difference between excused and unexcused absences
- 2) Requirements to Run for Exec
 - a) Elections happen in Spring
 - b) Will be required to speak about their level of involvement in SBNC
 - i) Volunteering time & skills
 - ii) We understand many students are have additional involvements



“The hunger for learning has been nonstop for me since day one, and being an independent college student, sometimes it can be difficult ... and my hunger isn't the only thing nonstop. This program helped me understand how important it is to make students' basic needs a priority when education is in the conversation...This program has pushed me to make a long-term change on my campus and in my state. It is important that we focus on the necessary at all times to avoid being left in default.”

— Nina Mims
Indiana State University

“I have completely changed my career path since joining SBNC. I was originally going to get my PhD in Comparative Theology but it still did not feel quite right. Now, I have applied for the Masters of Public Administration program here at WVU to pursue a life in running nonprofits, helping draft public policy, and hopefully continue working with the West Virginia legislature to make this state better for everyone to live in.”

— Joanna Switala
West Virginia University

studentbasicneeds.com

