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Team Reflection #1

Our project, called ExtraEats, is an app that will notify SCU students of leftover food after events on campus. Event planners will be able to create posts with information about the kind of food, pickup location, and pickup timings. Our community partner is Lindsey Kalkbrenner, from SCU's Center for Sustainability, and our critical customers are SCU students and event planners. As Lindsey is the director of the Center for Sustainability, she is a main lead in their projects and initiatives, which are implemented to create a stronger culture of sustainability. She intends for the ExtraEats app to impact SCU students, and increase sustainability on campus. It will aid students struggling with food insecurity, and will help decrease the amount of food wasted after events, leading to a greener, more sustainable campus.

The food-related nature of this app and the student-based community target will result in certain product specifications and requirements from Lindsey's end. She requires that the app have a training module for first-time users, with information about food cleanliness, hygiene practices when handling food, and general procedures regarding food safety. Given the size of SCU's campus, Lindsey also proposed a thirty minute window for food pick up after events, during which a timer in the app will count down the remaining time. In addition to this, we plan to include an accessibility feature in the application. Considering the wide population of SCU students it is targeted towards, we want to ensure that the app accommodates as many students as possible. We are currently considering features such as text-scaling and sizing, and including high contrast color options. We will be doing more research on standard tech practices for accessibility, and plan to include all that we can in our limited time frame. Further user testing and surveying is being done by the UI team. Based on the results they relay to us, we will make specific changes to the app, regarding certain user preferences for layout, windows for food pickup, and other app features. That way, we will be able to stay focused on parts of the app that

will be most impactful, both to the students using it and to the overall goal of reducing food waste on campus.

In terms of impact, our project will be beneficial in many ways. Environmentally speaking, our application will cut back on wasted food. Catered events almost always have a large amount of food leftover, which is ultimately thrown away; this application will help prevent or reduce that. Socioeconomically, Extra Eats will provide a way for college students, who are notorious for being low on money, a way to enjoy a free meal. As for others, students that struggle with food insecurity will also be accommodated. While there may not be events posted to the app daily, the few weekly events posted may be helpful to these struggling students. Food insecurity is one of the biggest issues that we hope our app will address. This goal is aligned with the Center for Sustainability's mission to bridge the apparent gaps between SCU students and create "a more humane, just, and sustainable world" ("Center for Sustainability", n.d.). The greater SCU community has recently been advocating for students who experience food insecurity, such as by opening the Bronco Food Pantry during Winter 2019 (Andrew, 2019). Recognizing food insecure students is a way for us to acknowledge and aid against the potential marginalization for these students and welcome them into a symbiotic relationship with event planners. This mutually beneficial relationship ties into the ethical impacts of the app. ExtraEats will increase the total utilitarian value of our campus by allowing event holders to not waste food and students to receive free food. Along with a reduction in food wastage, the money spent on the catered food would also be saved since students can eat the food instead of it being dumped. Culturally, the app will bring students together through having a meal that they would not normally share, which could lead to improved interpersonal relations on our campus. Thus, Extra Eats will provide a wide range of positive effects in addition to spreading this impact across cultural and socioeconomic boundaries.

To sum up our application's value, Extra Eats allows college students to receive a free meal for little investment other than time. It does this through a medium that is pervasive in today's society—mobile applications—which is a key feature of its success. In addition to the free food students would get, the large quantities of wasted food would be reduced, helping make our campus more sustainable and greener. Ultimately, our recognition of issues regarding food

insecurity and allocation within the insular SCU community makes us more aware citizens of the world. We are not only creating a platform to reallocate food but also a place to share awareness of sustainability and potential pain points of marginalization with other SCU students.

Works Cited

Andrew, K. (2019, January 13). A Step Toward Food Security. Retrieved May 6, 2019, from The

Santa Clara website: <http://thesantaclara.org/a-step-toward-food-security/>

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