



Thomas A. Lyson Center for Civic Agriculture and Food Systems

2017 Thanksgiving Report

The Lyson Center made significant progress in 2017 on key aspects of our programs, including JAFSCD and the North American Food Systems Network. We are excited to announce that on January 1, 2018, JAFSCD will officially become the world’s first **community supported journal**—open access, free to all! We are establishing a Shareholder Consortium with over 20 shareholder programs around the country that will provide support, advice, and accountability for JAFSCD as we increase our impact, outreach, and inclusion. Furthermore, despite eliminating our subscription system, many university and colleges libraries are continuing to support JAFSCD as library shareholders even as we become open access.

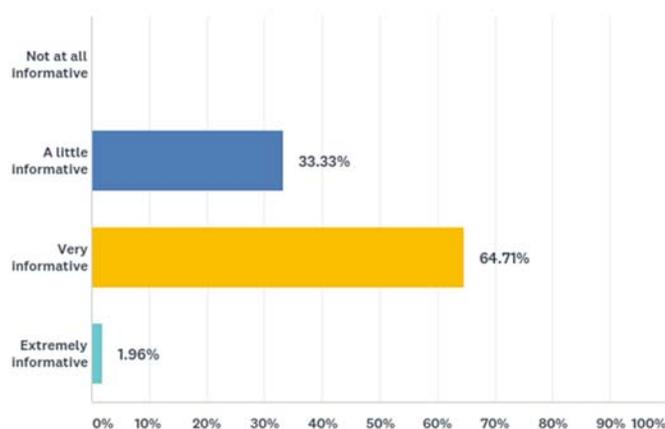
Our key accomplishments in 2017:

Journal of Agriculture, Food Systems, and Community Development

- We added two new columnists to give voice to people of color in the food system: Monica White with her column, “Freedom’s Seeds: Reflections on Race, Food, and Community” and Theresa Mares with her column “Cultivating *Comida*: Pushing the Boundaries of Food, Culture, And Politics.”
- We received a W.K. Kellogg grant to further our open access, outreach, and impact program.
- We co-sponsored a seminar on Native American food systems at Arizona State University (photo at right) and began planning a special issue on Native American Food Systems to be announced in 2018.
- We traveled throughout the South and visited historically Black colleges and universities (HBCUs) to encourage collaboration. Visits included Spelman College (the first HBCU to establish a food studies program), the University of Houston Downtown, and Prairie View A&M. We also met with the Rural Coalition in Washington, DC, which represents a wide range of activist organizations working in food systems around the U.S.
- We conducted a baseline Impact and Inclusion survey. Early results suggest that while the JAFSCD community of readers, authors, and reviewers generally report satisfaction with the journal’s efforts to engage with disadvantaged authors and have impact in challenged communities (see graphic on page 2), 80% of our community appears to be white and privileged.



Q23. How informative do you think JAFSCD is to the on-the-ground food system work happening in diverse communities, especially those that are underserved and under-resourced?



As we become open access and focus more on authors working or living in communities of color, we

hope to see an increase in stakeholders reporting that JAFSCD is “Extremely Informative.” Open-ended comments from the Impact and Inclusion Survey baseline can be found [here](#).

- Clarivate Analytics’ Web of Science has added us to their Emerging Sources Citation Index (ESCI).
- We began piloting our new Author Mentoring program, which is helping new scholars and non-scholars prepare and submit research-based manuscripts to JAFSCD.

North American Food Systems Network (NAFSN)

- NAFSN launched several key programs and services for members, including the **NAFSN Good Food Talk Webinars**, a **Training Event Calendar** and a **Jobs Listing** (with entries vetted and updated on a weekly basis by work/study students).
- NAFSN continued outreach via our NAFSN listserv (which, unlike other listservs, focuses almost exclusively on training opportunities), and held a number of NAFSN Meet & Greets (photo at right) at national and regional conferences.
- NAFSN beta-tested the Social HubSite platform to enable members’ networking and discovered it did not meet our needs.
- NAFSN facilitated a roundtable at the Agriculture, Food, and Human Values conference in June on land justice and black agrarianism, moderated by NAFSN member Elissa Johnson.
- NAFSN created a national Training and Certification Community of Practice to look at existing and proposed food systems-related training programs. Key activities included:
 - Conducted a national inventory of existing training programs;
 - Met in at a conference at Big Sky, Montana, in the summer to develop the structure and content for foundations of practice curriculum; and
 - Communicated with a number of foundations about their interest in our work, and discovered no foundations would accept a proposal from us until we have more diverse leadership.
- We produced a report entitled *Building a Diverse, Equitable, and Inclusive Network* by Corey Whiteley at the University of Saskatchewan to inform our efforts.
- We expanded our National Partner Organizations to include the Black Urban Growers.
- NAFSN co-sponsored the Community Food Systems Conference in Boston, MA, December 5–7, 2017.
- We conducted a strategic planning meeting in Boston (photo at right) to take stock of the above accomplishments and activities and to chart the network’s next key steps.



Other Lyson Center Activities

- We continued development of the [Sustainable Food Systems Sourcebook](#), an online database of degree programs, consultants, and other resources for students and practitioners.
- We continued work on the Progressive Agriculture Index, which compares counties in the U.S. by the proportion of farmers that exhibit characteristics of progressiveness, and submitted a paper on the same for double-blind peer-review to JAFSCD.

Plans for 2018

In addition to JAFSCD becoming open access on January 1, 2018, the Lyson Center plans the following:

- Convene our JAFSCD Shareholder Consortium.
- Undertake a study of JAFSCD's social media penetration in a collaborative study with Altmetric, Inc., pre- and post-open access.
- Develop and implement a JAFSCD Equity and Inclusion policy.
- Continue outreach to HBCUs, Tribal, and Hispanic-serving institutions.
- Secure resources to support a NAFSN coordinator and a coordinator for NAFSN's Food Systems Development Training and Certification Program.

Appreciation

As co-coordinators of the Thomas A. Lyson Center for Civic Agriculture and Food Systems, we would like to express our appreciation to all the individuals and organizations with whom we worked in 2017, including:

- JAFSCD reviewers, advisors, authors, readers, consulting editors, mentors, and columnists.
- North American Food Systems Network circle chairs and volunteer program staff, and National Partner Organizations.
- Friends of the Thomas A. Lyson Center for Civic Agriculture and Food Systems.
- Progressive Agriculture Indicators project collaborators.
- The W.K. Kellogg Foundation for its support of our impact, outreach, and inclusion project.

Finally, we wish to express our appreciation to our amazing work/study students, Michelle Shin, Michael Glanzel, Kyjana Barnett, and Josh Briscoe, who—despite being busy students at Cornell University—keep the Lyson Center humming along with their high-quality work!

The [Thomas A. Lyson Center for Civic Agriculture and Food Systems](#) is a project of the [Center for Transformative Action](#), which accepts donations on our behalf.



Lyson Center
for Civic Agriculture and Food Systems

Supporting the collaboration of scholars,
professionals, and active residents engaged in
food systems-based community development



**Thomas A. Lyson Center for Civic
Agriculture and Food Systems**

We appreciate your donation in any amount to further the work of the Lyson Center. Donations are tax-deductible as allowed by law. You will receive a receipt via email or postal mail.

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Return this form via email to Amy Christian (amy@lysoncenter.org), via fax to (607) 697-0454, or via mail to the Lyson Center, 295 Hook Place, Ithaca, NY 14850 USA. (Remember, you can donate securely online at <https://www.givegab.com/nonprofits/lyson-center-for-civic-agriculture-and-food-systems>.)

Thank you!