Lackawanna College students recognize World Hunger Day

SCRANTON, Pa. – Lackawanna College students, in partnership with Earthbox, recently observed World Hunger Day with the continuation of a homegrown initiative.

Students in Professor Lynn DeSanto’s Ecology and Biology classes donated approximately 35 bags of lettuce to the Salvation Army on Oct. 17, marking the second year that the College has partnered with Earthbox to grow produce on campus. Students doubled their previous effort this fall, increasing the number of Earthboxes used from eight to 16.

“My three classes were invested in planting, monitoring, and ultimately harvesting the lettuce. The six students in my Ecology class did the majority of the work, but the other 20 students also participated at different levels in the project,” DeSanto said.

In addition to harvesting the lettuce that the students grew on campus, DeSanto employed the help of the students in all of her classes to conduct a non-perishable food drive. The project is tied to the Biology curriculum in addressing the topics of photosynthesis, sustainable agriculture, Earthbox technology, world hunger, and social responsibility.

DeSanto said she hopes to expand this project next year.

“Not only did the students learn a lot of science, but it made it relevant realizing that there is hunger in Scranton,” she added.

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CAPTION: Lackawanna College students Julian Ei, left, and DeAnna DiGiampaolo work to harvest lettuce grown in Earthboxes at the Scranton campus. Lettuce was donated to the Salvation Army in observation of World Hunger Day in October.