Introduction: How Can Fair Trade Help Unity? The World!

Problem and Objective:
Climate Change: An enormous, chronic worsening issue. greenhouse gas emissions, plastic pollution, climate change collapses, environmental reduction, and my other issues are inherently tied to the worsening issue of Climate Change. Climate Change affects areas, including food systems, and all life on Earth. It is no surprise that the issue of Climate Change is a major concern for students and faculty at Unity College. Our college has a Sustainability Campus Certification which requires that we become more sustainable. As part of this certification, we are working to become a Fair Trade College. This is important because of the many benefits of Fair Trade, including protecting both the environment and the persons working. Fair Trade directly changes the face of poverty, improving human rights and fair treatment, the environment benefits from the restrictions on hazardous chemicals and pollutants. Fair Trade benefits that 75 percent of Fair Trade certified items are also certified organic (Fairtrade and Sustainability). Fair Trade also also withstands for the farmers and local nations, including compliance in energy and greenhouse gas reduction initiatives, and fair trade wages, profit maximization, hand-crafted protection, production of generally modified crops and hazardous chemicals, and equal treatment and competition.

Materials and methods:
To fulfill the necessary steps of the Fair Trade Certification, a school must complete five sections: Build Your Team; Reach Out to Campus Outlets, and Pass a Fair Trade Resolution. To fulfill the necessary steps of the Certification, a school must complete five sections: Build Your Team; Reach Out to Campus Outlets, and Pass a Fair Trade Resolution.

Discussion
Despite the current circumstances with the pandemic and quarantine, we can say that the goal of making Unity College the first Fair Trade-certified campus in the state of Maine is well underway of becoming a reality. Obviously we jumped into this project late in the game but we have been able to accomplish the last couple of checkpoints to a point of being nearly compliant. We were hoping to have this achieved by the start of the Fall 2020 semester but due to the quarantine, events must be postponed. For now we are planning to complete our goals and continue to work with the Unity College staff to achieve the last needed points required for the certification through planning more events, like a Fair Trade chocolate tasting. These events are not only good to receive the certification and supply marketing and fun events for the college campus but key to engaging and educating the Unity College community about Fair Trade, and in importance. Involving not only the students but the staff is also important if we want to achieve a Fair Trade campus. Having the entire community that makes up Unity College, the students, staff, and professors alike, participate in supporting Fair Trade goods and businesses is a big step towards incorporating Fair Trade across all of our lives and supporting a movement that puts the needs of humans and the environment on the same level which is our first big step towards global environmental equality.

Results
The goal was through building events for the students at the flagship campus we would be able to achieve the last point needed to achieve the benchmark requirements for the Commit to Fair Trade Education and Events section of the Certification. At this time we were only able to achieve two of the three needed events due to the current events of the pandemic but we plan on continuing this project further in the upcoming semesters to achieve the remaining events for this section of the certification. The events we achieved thus far are as follows:

The first event held was a Fair Trade tea blending night set up with the support of Jonathan Gibbons. This specific event offered the students a space to blend their own tea with a selection of different tea leaves, the Jasmine tea being Fair Trade. At this event Celine and Tyler offered an informational table where students could come and ask questions about what Fair Trade is and why it is important.

The second event was held by the Climbing club at the flagship campus held by the OAC (Outdoor Adventure Center). This event was a rock wall climbing open house with Fair Trade coffee being offered to the students who participated.

The third and final event is one that has not yet been fulfilled but one that Celine and Tyler plan on hosting in the upcoming Fall 2020 semester. This event will be a Fair Trade chocolate tasting hosted by Celine and Tyler with the support of Jonathan Gibbons. This event will offer students the opportunity to learn about Fair Trade and the importance of Fair Trade products while offering students a Fair Trade alternative to the events they regularly consume.

On top of hosting Fair Trade based events to achieve the necessary points needed for the Education and Events portion of the certification, we also have to submit a number of points for a section labeled Enroll Employees and Catering. This particular section requires that the campus office supply some amount of Fair Trade products to the varying departments of the campus office staff. For this Celine and Tyler contacted Jennifer DeHart in order to get the names of those who needed help with obtaining options for Fair Trade alternatives to the products such as coffee, tea, and other small items that are for their offices. Jennifer DeHart and Kim Shiff were the two staff members given to us to assist with this. After meeting with both of them and getting a list of items they were looking to find Fair Trade alternatives for, Celine and Tyler got to work looking for Fair Trade options for them to look into purchasing. The necessary items were then furnished to the offices for them to purchase and supply to their respective offices.

Literature Cited

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