



Press Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

University of California, Merced Presented with NACCU's 2019 Innovative Technology Award

Phoenix, AZ – April 26, 2019 – NACCU is proud to announce that the University of California, Merced is the recipient of the 2019 NACCU Innovative Technology Award for their iCare app to address food insecurity on campus. Brett St. Pierre from HID Global presented the award to Abe Cereno during the 26th Annual NACCU Conference in Hartford on April 10, 2019.



Statistics show that as many as 60% of students have experienced food insecurity while enrolled. In May of 2016, a student shared his meal plan funds with other students, inspiring the UC Merced CatCard office to launch an app to allow students to easily donate meal funds to their peers who are experiencing or at risk of food insecurity.

Brett St. Pierre and Abe Cereno

iCare offers students immediate, private, and automated access to request meal funds equivalent to a full week of meals accessible from any device, anywhere, anytime. iCare is integrated with UC Merced's CatCard campus card systems, and provides tracking, demographics, data analysis, and trends of student donations and requests to management. Since launching two years ago, iCare has provided a total of \$247,198 excess meal funds and 39,552 meal swipes to students.

NACCU congratulates the University of California, Merced as the recipient of the 2019 NACCU Innovative Technology Award.

To learn more about what was accomplished during this initiative, [click here](#) to view their award submission.

About the NACCU Innovative Technology Award

The Innovative Technology Award is awarded annually to an institution that has introduced a unique and innovative technology-based solution to a problem or opportunity. The Awards Committee evaluates and scores each submission based on a common scoring method. The nomination receiving the top score is the recipient.

About NACCU

NACCU provides members access to a network of campus identification and transaction system resources to integrate and streamline campus operations, and enhance the student experience. NACCU’s mission is to advance the position of higher education transaction and identity systems through professional development and leadership opportunities for its members to stay current in an ever-changing environment.

Learn more at www.naccu.org.

Media Contact:

Crystal Bazarnic

Marketing & Communications

NACCU

crystal@naccu.org

602.395.8989