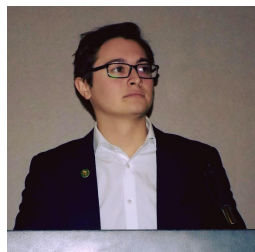


# SCHEDULE

- 6:00** Doors Open;  
Refreshments Served
- 6:10** Introduction
- 6:15** State of the Issue
- 6:30** Simulation
- 6:45** Simulation Discussion
- 6:50** Project Unveiling
- 7:15** Guest Panel
- 8:00** Guest Panel: Audience Questions
- 8:05** Call to Action
- 8:10** Tabling & Networking
- 8:20** Event Close

# DISTINGUISHED SPEAKERS



**Conrad Taylor**  
Binghamton City Councilman,  
4th District

Councilman Taylor is currently a senior at Binghamton University, majoring in Political Science. As the representative of Binghamton's Northside and Downtown, Taylor is focused on economic development

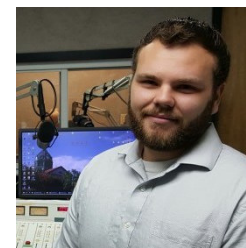
improving local infrastructure, and revitalizing the Binghamton area. In his first year alone, Taylor has advocated for the demolition of several run-down houses, addressed code concerns for houses in the Northside, and was involved in the South Washington Street Bridge renovations, city infrastructure improvements, LUMA and Mural Fest, and an \$11 million project to build apartments and offices on the long-dormant Big Lots property on the Northside. Taylor is committed to reducing blight, developing the local economy, and increasing student engagement.



**David Currie**  
Many Hands Food Co-op  
Director

David Currie was the first Executive Director of the Binghamton Regional Sustainability Coalition (BRSC), leading the organization through its start-up phase and obtaining

501(c) 3 status. He has successfully guided numerous projects, departments, businesses, and groups from the earliest stages of development to full operational capacity. In 2007, the Westchester County Legislature recognized his contributions to the Larchmont-Mamaroneck, NY communities by Proclamation. David draws on skills and experience, with an emphasis on marketing, sales, fundraising and organizational development, acquired over 40 years in entrepreneurial and corporate settings in the hospitality, food, health services, sustainability and nonprofit sectors. David currently sits on the Board of Directors of the BRSC and is the Director of the Many Hands Food Co-op.



**Jack Seman**  
CHOW Director

Jack Seman is the Director of the Community Hunger Outreach Warehouse (CHOW), a division of Broome County Council of Churches focused on food recovery and distribution. CHOW distributes over

two million pounds of food throughout Broome County yearly and hosts large events such as the annual CHOW. Jack Seman started off with CHOW as a volunteer for the organization, went on to work in the CHOW warehouse, and then subsequently became a program manager and then the director of the organization. He was involved in CHOW's development of a "Mobile Grocery Store," CHOW's partnership with the Twin Tier Mustang Club, and many other efforts to fight food insecurity in Broome County.



**Ebony Jackson**  
Activist and Business Owner;  
Northside Resident

Ebony Jackson lives on Binghamton's North Side and is a mother of 4 who moved to Binghamton in 1997. She graduated from Binghamton High School and Davis College with a degree in social work. She is

passionate about the Binghamton community and helping people, having worked as a case manager at local organizations such as the Children's Home and Handicapped Children's Association. Ebony is committed to social justice and economic development in Broome County. She currently owns her own business, Gilead Marketing Solutions, and is the chair of the social justice organization PLOT - Progressive Leaders of Tomorrow.



**Thomas Sinclair**  
Associate Professor,  
Binghamton University CCPA

Professor Sinclair is an innovative teacher whose MPA courses include core topics such as Foundations of Public Service, Policy Analysis, and Intergovernmental Relations. Since arriving at Binghamton University in

2000, he has been actively engaged in the practice of public service. He was the original chair of the Department of Public Administration at Binghamton University and has served in numerous leadership positions within both Binghamton University and the SUNY Faculty Senates. His community service includes shared service projects with county and municipal governments. He lives in the village of Dryden, N.Y. where he is an active volunteer with the Dryden Beautification Brigade and serves as a member of the Board of Trustees of the Dryden Town Historical Society.

# STATE OF THE ISSUE

## North Side Food Desert Since 1996

The North Side of Binghamton has been without a grocery store since 1996, leaving the community, and, by extension, the downtown area, devoid of a source of healthy and affordable food. Since 1996, the North Side has been a food desert, which the USDA defines as geographically encompassing communities with limited access to affordable and nutritious food. As a basic human need, food is essential to the health and wellbeing of individuals and communities. Food deserts are a threat to the physical and socio-economic health of communities and are a worrying symptom of increasing poverty and decreasing accessibility.

## Challenges of Food Insecurity

Census data shows that the poverty rate in the City of Binghamton has increased by nearly 10% in the last 15 years, rising from 23.67% to 33.9%. As poverty has increased in Binghamton, the accessibility to resources and services has decreased in lower-income communities. Without access to affordable and healthy foods, communities face hardships that hinder social mobility and perpetuate a sense of hopelessness.

## Cooperative Grocer as a Unique Solution

If corporate interests won't service the needs of a community, then why can't the community come together to form their own grocery store? The Many Hands Cooperative Grocery Store aims to do just that. Following a cooperative business model, this grocery store is a community-shared asset, such that it is a 100% member-owned and democratically-controlled enterprise that operates for the benefit of its shareholders. These shareholders would be community members who would purchase shares to become shareholders. This cooperative is a community-centric solution that offers a holistic resolution to food insecurity and a sustainable approach to community development as a means of tackling poverty.

## Benefits of a Cooperative Grocery Store

To revitalize the North Side and downtown Binghamton, community-shared assets should be established to financially empower residents and increase accessibility to lacking goods and services such as food. A private grocer would only reinvest \$0.54 of the dollar back into the community, whereas a cooperative grocer would reinvest as much as \$0.78 of the same dollar. As such, a cooperative grocer has a much larger economic impact than a private grocer: reinvesting \$0.24 more back into the community for every dollar spent. As a community-shared asset, the cooperative will enable residents to not only invest in their community but also secure a path to healthy, sustainable, and equitable growth.

# GETTING INVOLVED

Whether you're a student or student group, faculty, or community member, there are many opportunities to become a part of the Many Hands Food Cooperative. Contact us at [manyhandsfoodcoop@gmail.com](mailto:manyhandsfoodcoop@gmail.com) for further information for future opportunities.

## Students and Student Groups

Become a member of the MHFC student group. Weekly meetings are on Thursday nights at 7pm in SW 110. Your student group can volunteer with us! The MHFC student group volunteers weekly at soup kitchens, community garden builds, and other events downtown and we could use all of the help we can get. Spread the word and like us on Facebook @ManyHandsFoodCoop. Support the store by purchasing t-shirts and tote bags, and come to future events.

## Faculty

- Voice your support by filling out membership pledges.
- Would you or your class like to hear more about the Many Hands Food Co-op? We will gladly meet with professors and present the project to classes that are interested in learning more about it.
- Help us support the project by building institutional support! Get your department involved through skills-placed volunteerism.
- Spread the word! Tell your colleagues and like us on Facebook @ManyHandsFoodCoop
- Give a donation (all donations are tax-exempt) and purchase merchandise
- Join the Steering Committee by attending our meetings at the First Congregational Church every other Saturday at 4 P.M.

## Community Members

The Many Hands Cooperative Grocery Store is your store! Fill out a membership pledge to get involved and learn more about how the cooperative will benefit the community. Spread the word! Tell your friends, family, and neighbors and like us on Facebook @ManyHandsFoodCoop. Come out to our community events! Join the Steering Committee by attending our meetings at the First Congregational Church every other Saturday at 4 P.M.

[manyhandsfoodco-op.com](http://manyhandsfoodco-op.com)

 [@ManyHandsFoodCoop](https://www.facebook.com/ManyHandsFoodCoop)

# MANY HANDS AGAINST HUNGER

October 10, 2017

6 - 8:30 PM

Old Union Hall



MANY HANDS  
FOOD CO-OP



[innovation@binghamton](mailto:innovation@binghamton)

