The Food Congress is a day-long event aimed at creating an educational forum among a diverse and inclusive group of stakeholders to communicate about the Cincinnati food system, its programs and practices and vision for a change. In response to the economic recession and consequential increased food insecurity, discussion of practical steps to increase food access and food security, along with methods of implementation will serve as the overarching theme for Food Congress events.

1. What is food policy?
2. Living without food, what it means to be food insecure
3. Promoting local food distribution
4. Urban Agriculture and youth growers

$10 fee for advance registration, $15 at the door
Scholarships available
To register contact Clare Norwood at food.project@uc.edu, or 513-556-3282

Morning
9:00 - 9:30
Registration
9:35 - 9:45
Introduction
9:45 - 10:45
What is a Food System? Mark Winne
Discussion of how local and national food policy impacts food access. Mark Winne has worked for 35 years to close the food gap. From organizing breakfast programs for low-income children in Maine to developing innovative national food policies in Washington, DC, Winne has dedicated his professional life and writing to finding local, state, and federal solutions to America’s food disparities.

10:45 - 11:00
What is the Food Policy Council? Michelle Dillingham
Food Policy Council Development Group Chair will discuss and announce the launch of The Cincinnati Food Policy Council.

11:00 - 11:30
The Center for Closing the Health Gap Dwight Tillery
Founder of The Center for Closing the Health Gap, Dwight Tillery will discuss the Center’s mission to lead the efforts to eliminate racial and ethnic health disparities in Greater Cincinnati through advocacy, education, and community outreach.

Lunch (included in registration fee)
11:40 - 12:30
Catered by Melt Restaurant

Afternoon Visioning Sessions
12:40 - 3:20
Group 1: What is food policy?
Discussion of how local and national food policy impacts food access.
Group 2: Living without food, living with food insecurity?
Overcoming food insecurity and city initiatives geared to improving food access
Group 3: Local food distribution
Local food distribution and best practices by supporting local and regional farmers
Group 4: Urban Agriculture and youth growers
How urban agriculture brings people together to grow healthy food & rebuild community bonds

3:30 - 5:00
Reception: Opportunity to network, talk with Food Policy Council Development Group and nosh on a few treats