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Executive Summary

The Annual Foodscape Innovation™ Summit is an essential part of the American Heart Association's (AHA) food systems work in support of health equity. The AHA is committed to advancing cardiovascular health for all by 2024. This includes identifying and removing barriers to health care access and ground for action with an eye toward empowerment, representation, cultural humility, common language, values and empathy.

The sixth annual summit focused on building bridges as a critical facilitator to achieving nutrition security and health equity. It included the main program on June 15, which was open to the public, and a workshop on June 16 with participants invited from organizations operating in food, health care and community systems sectors. Panelists, workshop participants and attendees represented the diverse perspectives and expertise needed to champion and successfully create greater health equity and nutrition security.

The workshop was designed to foster critical, innovative thinking and obtain varied insights from invitees based on the main program. The workshop featured facilitated breakout sessions and group reports where building bridges have the potential to address barriers to health equity and nutrition security in four nexus areas:

- Health care and food systems.
- Community and food systems.
- Local, national and global food systems.
- Health outcomes and the food system.

Four themes arose over the course of the summit, suggesting opportunities for action by organizations engaged in food, healthcare and community systems:

- COVID-19 has had a disproportionate effect on communities of color and food and nutrition insecurity. Perhaps accelerated by the pandemic, consumers and stakeholders alike appear to be more attuned to the challenges of nutrition security and health equity.
- Nutrition security, health equity and sustainability should be ubiquitous, shared values. True diversity will be critical within all components of the food system.
- Food and nutrition education, services and interventions must align with culture, lifestyle and social determinant of health in order to facilitate sustainably healthy eating patterns.
- Working together to build bridges and modernize systems will require a new level of empathy for diverse perspectives, and commitment to shared values.

"If we can take that science on healthy eating patterns and provide folks with health and nutrition literacy, the marketplace is where the science gets turned into action."

- Eduardo Sanchez, MD, MPH, FAAFP, UVNSNLVJASfNn for Prevention, AHA