



**Cisco College**  
101 College Heights  
Cisco, Texas 76437  
(254) 442-5000  
[www.cisco.edu](http://www.cisco.edu)

## **PRESS RELEASE**

### **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

Contact: Kaitlin Berry, Director of Marketing and Public Relations  
(254) 442-5013  
[kaitlin.berry@cisco.edu](mailto:kaitlin.berry@cisco.edu)

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## **AT&T Pioneers Support Cisco College “Food for Thought” With Annual Thanksgiving Donation**

**Abilene, Texas (November 20, 2017)** – 20 members of the Cisco College family will have a happier Thanksgiving holiday thanks to the generosity of volunteers with AT&T Pioneers.

For the last five years, the AT&T Pioneers have graciously partnered with the Cisco College Food Pantry, “Food for Thought,” and the Cisco College Blue Jackets to put together food baskets with traditional Thanksgiving fixings for students in need to enjoy with their families. 20 Cisco College students received those food baskets on Monday, November 20<sup>th</sup>.

The Cisco College Abilene Education Center created the “Food for Thought” food pantry in the fall of 2012 after realizing that some students were sleeping in cars and campus buildings, falling asleep in class, and showing up to campus events for the promise of free food.

Cisco College formed a committee to research student needs and found that many students living below the poverty level were 18-24 years old. In a class survey, 60% of students indicated they knew at least one friend who skipped meals because he or she could not afford food, or could only afford to eat every other day.

Since opening in 2012, the pantry has seen an average of 20 students each week. Each student may get food for himself or herself and up to four family members. This means “Food for Thought” serves approximately 32,000 to 36,000 people every year.

Cisco College is an affordable 2-year institution that proudly supports traditional and non-traditional students who are trying to pay tuition while also supporting themselves and their families. These students make sacrifices and “Food for Thought” is a small but significant way that the college can support these students while in pursuit of their educational goals.

“Food for Thought” is open two days a week and one night a week for two to three hours 10 months out of the year. Cisco College works to accommodate all students’ needs and class schedules. The only requirement to use the food pantry is a student ID to verify current

enrollment. The pantry uses a formula based on the number of people who reside in a student's home to determine the amount of food and toiletry items to dispense.

The continued success of the Cisco College food pantry depends on the generosity of individuals like the AT&T Pioneers. "Food for Thought can accept donated items, cash or checks in order to continue serving students in need. For additional information about ways you can contribute to "Food For Thought" and support Cisco College students, please refer to the attached document.

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The AT&T Pioneers and Cisco College Blue Jackets prepared 20 baskets of Thanksgiving food for students in need.

