

USFT Year in Review 2005

Convergence in Chicago!

(see executive summary)

February 17th -20th, over 370 students, producers, and allies joined together for a weekend of education, action, and empowerment.

SCAA Conference in Seattle (see executive summary)

Over thirty students participated in a Northwest Regional conference and Coffee training before spending three days at the Specialty Coffee Convention. Students had the opportunity to work the expo floor, spreading the word about Fair Trade and expressing student demand for socially responsible and environmentally sustainable coffees on campus. Additionally, students met with many allied NGOs, TransFairUSA, Starbucks, Green Mountain, and other industry players. Many thanks to Pura Vida for housing our students and supporting student vision in the Fair Trade Movement.

First Election

In April and May, USFT held our first election of new Coordinating Committee members. A full board of 12 committed leaders was elected!

Women's Delegation to Chiapas, Mexico

Several women from USFT's Women's Working Group joined the Mexico Solidarity Network in a Fair Trade focused trip to Origin in Chiapas, Mexico. For two weeks, women traveled through indigenous communities exploring women's empowerment and community development.

Transitions Retreat

In order to transfer institutional memory and set future coordinators up for success, outgoing and incoming coordinators joined together in Vermont for a long weekend of relationship building, learning, and leadership development. Thanks to Green Mountain Coffee roasters for generously supporting the retreat!

Major Fundraising Victory, First Full Time Staff Member

As the result of 6 months of development and fundraising, USFT was able to fund a full time National Coordinator!

Three Year Strategic Action Plan Created

USFT formalized our vision and developed a three year strategy plan for accomplishing organizational goals

Goal 1. Cultivate student empowerment: Work together as students and youth to cultivate the consciousness, capacity and creativity that will proactively shape a global economy based on equity, justice, and integrity

Goal 2: Participate in empowerment processes of cooperative leaders, farmers, artisans, workers, and youth activists by supporting their efforts to defend their human rights and shape a global economy based on equity, justice, and integrity.

Goal 3: Improve Organizational Effectiveness and Sustainability:

For the full report, visit USFT's website.

BANANA Campaign Launch

USFT students spent the fall researching the distribution and sourcing opportunities for Empowerment Bananas on campuses and began laying the foundation for a broader Empowerment Banana campaign. Look for more action around BANANAS in the coming year!