CA13-0407

Communicator Awards Application Form

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Choose which Communicator Award you/team are applying for:

Feature Story

Award Nominee
Linda Tripp

Name of Person Submitting Application

Linda Tripp

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The abstract should include information such as:

Objectives:
1. to inform the public about CCE's support of youth gardening
2. to encourage schools to participate in CCE's school garden program
3. to promote the opportunity for volunteers to help with the school gardens

Target audience: parents, gardeners, school personnel

Current population: 111,172

Publisher's requirement: Articles and photos must be emailed. The article must be embedded in the email message. The photo must be attached to the email.

Methods used: The article and photo were emailed to the media.

Production costs: none

Impact results: We have inquiries from four more school buildings about kinds of support available for their fledgling school garden programs. The key person at each of those gardens has been participating in our monthly educational sessions.

Role of applicant: I wrote the article, took the photo, and sent both to the media
CCE garden partners program supports school growers

HUDSON — Cornell Cooperative Extension (CCE) of Columbia and Greene Counties is working to support school gardens in several ways, aiming to make a difference in the lives of children throughout the area. CCE educators meet monthly with school garden partners—to share training and best practices. CCE helps the school gardens leaders make connections with possible funding, volunteers and grant opportunities. In addition, Cornell University experts come to our area for more in-depth support.

CCE 4-H Issue Leader, Linda Tripp, said in a press release, "Even with this free training and support, we still see many school buildings in our area that do not yet host school gardens. We hope that school administrators, teachers, parents and community partners will see the advantages of including school gardens as an integral part of the school environment."

Much research has been done on the positive aspects of school gardening. Results show that students tend to learn more and better when they are actively involved in the learning process as they are when they go out into the garden at their school site.

School gardening enhances learning for all students. Children with learning disabilities, who participated in gardening activities, had enhanced nonverbal communication skills, developed awareness of the advantages of order, learned how to participate in a cooperative effort, and formed relationships with adults.

Because of its hands-on approach, school gardening can meet NYS Learning Standards. For example, in Mathematics, Science & Technology, classrooms using indoor gardens and specific curriculum scored significantly higher than control classrooms in students' understanding of key life science concepts and science inquiry skills.

After gardening, students have shown increased knowledge about nutrition, plant ecology, and gardening. Students have been found to be more willing to eat fresh fruits and vegetables as snacks.

Schools currently participating in the School Partners in Gardening Program include Chatham Elementary School, Germantown Elementary School, Ichabod Crane Primary School, Ichabod Crane High School, Hudson Junior High School, Taconic Hills Central School District.

For more information about CCE School Garden Partners program or starting a garden at your school building please contact Cornell Cooperative Extension of Columbia and Greene Counties at 518-828-3346 or email l.ke2@cornell.edu.
CCE Garden Partners Program Supports School Growers

School gardening has been shown to increase self-esteem, help students develop a sense of ownership and responsibility, help foster relationships with family members, and increase parental involvement in the schools. Cornell Cooperative Extension (CCE) of Columbia and Greene Counties is working to support school gardens in several ways, aiming to make a difference in the lives of children throughout the area.

CCE educators meet monthly with school garden partners—to share training and best practices. CCE helps the school gardens leaders make connections with possible funding, volunteers and grant opportunities. In addition, Cornell University experts come to our area for more in-depth support.

CCE 4-H Issue Leader, Linda Tripp indicates that, “Even with this free training and support, we still see many school buildings in our area that do not yet host school gardens. We hope that school administrators, teachers, parents and community partners will see the advantages of including school gardens as an integral part of the school environment."

Much research has been done on the positive aspects of school gardening. Results include the following:

- Students tend to learn more and better when they are actively involved in the learning process as they are when they go out into the garden at their school site.
- School gardening enhances learning for all students. Children with learning disabilities, who participated in gardening activities, had enhanced nonverbal communication skills, developed awareness of the advantages of order, learned how to participate in a cooperative effort, and formed relationships with adults.
- Because of its hands-on approach, school gardening can meet NYS Learning Standards. For example, in Mathematics, Science & Technology, classrooms using indoor gardens and specific curriculum scored significantly higher than control classrooms in students' understanding of key life science concepts and science inquiry skills.
- Active involvement in school gardens also enhances lifelong knowledge and skills. After gardening, students have shown increased knowledge about nutrition, plant ecology, and gardening. Students have been found to be more willing to eat fresh fruits and vegetables as snacks. Consumption of fruits and vegetables, as a habit in childhood, is an important predictor of higher fruit and vegetable consumption as adults and can help to prevent or delay chronic disease conditions.
- After gardening, kids possess an appreciation for working with neighborhood adults, and have an increased interest for improvement of neighborhood appearance.
- Gardening can bring any aspect of the curriculum to life. It isn’t an add on, but rather an integral part of the whole curriculum. We rely on plants for everything. Gardening is a way to help us recognize our dependence on, and connectedness with, plants.

Schools currently participating in the School Partners in Gardening Program include Chatham Elementary School, Germantown Elementary School, Ichabod Crane Primary School, Ichabod Crane High School, Hudson Junior High School, Taconic Hills Central School District.
For more information about our School Garden Partners program or starting a garden at your school building please contact Cornell Cooperative Extension of Columbia and Greene Counties at 828-3346 or email lke2@cornell.edu. CCE provides equal program and employment opportunities.

You can also find information about other programs offered by Cornell Cooperative Extension of Columbia and Greene Counties by visiting our website www.ccecolumbiagreene.org. We’re also on Facebook!

Photo: Participants in the “Take Root! A Training for Garden Educators” held recently at Cornell Cooperative Extension learned from Cornell University program educator, Liz Falk.