UDC Urban Gardening Project featured by Associated Press Television

UDC Garden Club project with the Edmund Burke School featured in millennial video segment

The urban gardening movement is on the rise. According to the Associated Press (AP), 42 million American households are growing their own food. This is the highest level in 10 years, with the largest segment of that demographic being the millennial generation. In the last five years, the number of millennial gardeners has increased 63 percent to 13 million. The College of Agriculture, Urban Sustainability and Environmental Sciences of the University of the District of Columbia was contacted by AP for more information on the young farming and gardening movement.

Coy McKinney, UDC Garden Club coordinator, spoke to Tracy Brown, senior AP producer, on behalf of CAUSES. “My thinking was if I could get involved with food at the growing stage, then hopefully, we can start to have discussions about our neighborhoods and our cities,” the 28-year old graduate of the David A. Clarke School of Law explained in the video segment.

Those discussions are being imparted to the 9th grade students of the nearby Edmund Burke School, with whom the UDC Garden Club has partnered with for a service-learning gardening project. The students have been volunteering in UDC’s gardens as an experiential assignment on climate change, which they are studying in their earth science class. The result of the 8-week long project will be locally grown, organic produce.

This project presented the perfect opportunity to revisit a space that was designated a great place for an on-campus garden over a year ago, after UDC was honored with a grant from the Verizon Foundation to create sensory gardens. To prepare the gardens for the 2014 planting, students were tasked with weeding, building trellises and preparing future garden beds. Before the project is completed, the young gardeners will apply compost and began planting vegetables, using the “square-foot gardening” method as taught by McKinney.

The Associated Press was able to interview McKinney during one of Edmund Burke’s volunteer sessions.

“This has been fun and interesting because we are learning about climate change in science, and they connect,” explained Claire Kulawiec, an Edmund Burke student.
An aerial map of the project is available as well as additional photos. Learn more about this project on the Just CAUSES blog. Volunteers are always needed. Please email the UDC Garden Club for more information.

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