

CAUSES 5-Year Report of Accomplishments

- Upgraded the Ward 7 East Capitol Urban Farm to include a STEM education area for neighborhood schools.
- Continued implementation of the Ward 5 and Ward 8 Urban Food Hubs on South Dakota Ave. and Livingston Ave. in collaborations with AEDC and DOEE.
- Collaborated with DSLBD and TechStars to organize 5 workshops during DC Startup Week; the workshops drew 95 participants, including 12 UDC students, and follow-up activities reached over 500 interested start-up business owners.
- Collaborated with DSLBD on a community food innovation grant for local organizations in Ward 7 & 8; fiscal year 2017 funding is \$75,000 with \$150,000 going to the same organizations in 2018.
- Established ongoing mentorship with 15 environmental businesses in DC, and facilitated business planning sessions with each of them; 9 UDC students in the Environmental Business Incubator are developing high-impact sustainable businesses.
- Received 2 Specialty Crop Block Grants totaling \$92,000 to identify entrepreneurship opportunities in food processing and food preservation incl. with returning citizens.
- Collaborated with federal, state, and non-profit organizations on 11th Street Bridge Park project and constructed 200 raised bed gardens across 6 urban farm sites in food dessert neighborhoods long with training on food production, nutrition and sustainability.
- Equipped the District of Columbia's first Native Plant Nursery, funded through a Sustainable DC grant, and held focus groups with DC residents and agencies on strategies to increase tree coverage to mitigate urban heat island.
- Collaborated with USDA-ARS scientists, and UDC students to determine which genotypes/varieties of four crops (strawberry, sweet potato greens, roselle, tomato) grow best in urban agricultural systems incl. on green roofs.
- Collaborated with two USDA-ARS scientists to determine the potential success of biological control measures for the damaging harlequin bug *Murgantia histrionica* crop pest.
- Collaborated across three landgrant centers to assess the knowledge and attitudes of Washingtonians toward natural resources and climate change.
- Collaborated with a non-profit organization, Florida International University, and Indoamerica Technological University to evaluate population genetics and habitat requirements of a critically imperiled legume (*Vicia ocalensis*) to prevent extinction.

- Announced new Professional Science Master in Water Resources Management concentrations in Urban Agriculture and Urban Sustainability - the first programs of their kind in D.C.
- Three successful accreditation site visits for our academic programs in Architecture and Community Planning, Nutrition and Dietetics, and nursing (RN to BSN).
- Nearly doubled grant funding to more than \$ 4 million received for research and community education.
- More than quadrupled the land under cultivation at Firebird Farm in Beltsville; built six greenhouses, three aquaponics systems, five hydroponics systems, and an ethnic crops program so that DC residents can learn efficient urban food production methods.
- Expanded our community outreach programs by 25% and served 35,000 program participants, ages 3 to 93, through nutrition education programs, continuing education and workforce development programs in food management, urban agriculture, storm water management, and climate change mitigation.
- Worked with 90 community organizations including schools, churches, synagogues, homeless shelters, community gardens, and farmers markets to bring our work to where our fellow DC citizens live.
- Inaugurated a 20,000 sq. ft. food-producing green roof atop of Building 44, which produced 4,300 pounds of produce in its first season.
- Grew over 8 tons of sustainable top quality produce for Bread for the City, DC Central Kitchen, and the Hay Adams Hotel.
- Received extensive media coverage for our urban agriculture program, including features in the Washington Post, NPR, the Washington City Paper, two USDA publications, and on WAMU 88.5.
- Achieved full accreditation for the Environmental Quality Testing Laboratory (EQTL) from the National Environmental Laboratory Accreditation Program Accreditation Council, the highest national laboratory accreditation achievable. The EQTL is striving toward offering soil and water testing services in the District of Columbia.
- Was named recipient of the 2015 District Sustainability Award from the Department of Energy and Environment (DOEE).