



2023-24 Career Awareness Grants

Future Garden Entomologists submitted by Phil Dreeste and Katie Currie from Kenwood Elementary.

This grant will primarily be used to purchase high interest insects that will be shared with students through activities in the Kenwood gardens. U of I entomologists will help students learn about career paths in the entomology field. This grant will also be used for purchasing materials to build two raised beds to make the Kenwood gardens accessible to all students including those in wheel chairs.

Exploring Careers in Art & Design submitted by Janice Knight and Rusty Clevenger, visual arts teachers at Urbana Middle School.

Approximately 180 UMS eighth grade visual art students will have an opportunity to explore careers in the department of Fine and Applied Arts at the University of Illinois Champaign-Urbana. In collaboration with Krannert Art Museum, Siebel Center for Design, and Krannert Center for the Performing Arts, students will attend one of three day-long field trips to University of Illinois Campus to meet various experts who work and teach in Art and Design careers.

Building sustainability for urban food system through water conservation submitted by Ann Swanson Ready School.

Ready students will learn the importance of urban farming and how it relates to local economy, overall health, community service and

sustainable farming. Students will learn how to install an irrigation system in the raised beds located within Prosperity Gardens. This project will allow students from the *Ready Program* to learn about plant care, pest management, & weed management within this system. The food that is harvested from these plots will be used to feed Ready students and our local community.

***Careers in STEAM & STEAM kits* submitted by Tiffany Blackmon from Barkstall Elementary.**

This grant will primarily be used to introduce students to careers in the areas of STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Art and Math) by taking three grade levels on field trips to the University of Illinois as well as through independent activities. The grant will also allow the purchase of STEAM kits as follow up activities to field trip visits and extended learning about various careers in the STEAM field.