



Happy Thanksgiving

GHV WELCOMES NEW BOARD MEMBERS



Pictured from left to right Christine Burke, Freddie Wills and Elizabeth Boedeker

Elizabeth Boedeker

Elizabeth Boedeker is a molecular biologist with nearly 33 years of laboratory experience in both academic and industry settings. She started teaching as an adjunct faculty member in the biotechnology program of St. Louis Community College in 2004, initially designing and teaching a specialized course in forensics. She joined the college full-time as the Coordinator of the BioBench Contract Research Organization initiated there in 2009. While there, she developed one of the more popular advanced courses for the Biotechnology program called Quantitative PCR methods.

In mid-2019, she moved into the District Directorship of the Center for Plant and Life Science. Additionally, she is the P.I. on a current NSF grant, where she and her team are developing a curriculum in genome editing with extensive input from local industry.

She remains adjunct faculty and enjoys teaching various program courses and interacting with the biotechnology students. Through her interactive relationship with industry in the St. Louis region, she is able to place most of her students with companies to gain workplace experience. She continues to work with many industry and economic development partners to address equity and workforce needs of the region.

Dr. Freddie Wills

Freddie E. Wills, Jr., Ph.D. serves as the Vice President for STEM Initiatives and Research Partnerships, and he leads the Missouri Louis Stokes Alliance for Minority Participation (MOLSAMP) as its Principal Investigator. In his role, Dr. Wills works to develop and implement institutional partnerships that advance the STEM agenda for Harris-Stowe State University. In addition, he provides leadership for the operation of two National Science Foundation grants awarded to the university.

Dr. Wills is a visionary leader, who is passionate about student development, organizational culture and structure, and excellence in academics. He holds a Bachelor of Arts degree in Communications (Southwest Baptist University), a Master of Arts degree in Media Communications (Webster University), and a Ph.D. in Higher Education Administration (Saint Louis University).

Christine Burke

After 17 years of teaching at St. Margaret of Scotland School, Christine Burke transitioned to assistant principal in 2020. She recently assumed the role of Interim Principal, and she is looking forward to playing an active role in the Green House Venture.

She sees it as not only an opportunity to bring our communities together, but as a way to educate and explore science in a more real-world environment. Her hope is that through the Green House Venture program, we can help create future leaders, problem-solvers, and scientists. That pursuit aligns with the vision of her school to expand the educational experiences of students in the St. Louis City area and empower them, teach them, and have them share that knowledge and passion with others.

Green House Venture

3rd Edition | November 2021

PRESERVATION COMMISSION

On September 27, the City of St. Louis Preservation Commission met and approved the second phase of the Green House Venture's long-term development plan. We now have full authority to proceed with the construction of a state-of-the-art Education Center, which will be the cornerstone of our GHV Campus. When it is completed, students will learn about an array of growing methods, such as hydroponics, aquaponics, vertical growing in courtyards and roof-top agriculture.

The first phase was the Embankment Greenway with the Pollinator Recovery Habitat and Terrace Garden built along the south side of Interstate Highway 44 from Thurman to 39th street. Completed earlier this year, the Greenway is designed to involve students working with scientists to explore the potential for using interstate highway margins to revitalize declining pollinator populations, including butterflies and the native bees that are essential for large-scale agriculture.

The overall GHV Campus is designed to address a challenging reality facing the future of our nation's food production and distribution system. By the middle of this century, our growing population will be confronted with pitting the need to decrease fuel-consuming, long-distance food transportation against the need to increase food supplies to large urban centers like St. Louis.

Our program is focused on giving elementary school children an immersive learning experience in bio-science and urban agriculture at an early age in the hopes that they will pursue higher education and careers in those fields.

The main focus thus far has been on our Ambassadors Program, which includes a comprehensive 3-year curriculum with cohorts of five students from each of the four Urban Alliance schools participating in the Venture. We also offer our Adventure Summer Camp, which has been in hiatus over the past couple of years due to the Covid pandemic.



Rendering of the future Green House Venture
Education Center presented to the St. Louis Preservation Commission

SHAW NEIGHBORHOOD HISTORIC DISTRICT REHABILITATION AND NEW CONSTRUCTION STANDARDS

The Venture has close affiliations with multiple corporations, foundations, higher education and public institutions that are avid supporters of GHV. To date, we have raised more than \$781,904.00 for the 1st phase of the GHV Campus, the Embankment Greenway.

With all official approvals now cleared, and architectural designs completed by UIC, we will kick off our fundraising campaign for phase two before the end of the year. Our goal is \$6 million – \$4 million for construction and \$2 million operating fund. We have already received a large lead gift of \$1 million from a generous donor who is committed to our work and has asked to remain anonymous at this time. Once a larger portion of the required funding is secured, we will begin construction, which is expected to take about 2 years to complete.



Dave Reid pictured on the GHV Embankment Greenway installing Native Prairie Plant signs

YOU WILL BE MISSED DAVE

Since the beginning of the Green House Venture, one of our program's mainstays and key contributors has been Dave Reid. His primary function has been Treasurer and Secretary to the Board of Directors, also serving as the Chairman of the Site Committee.

In recognizing Dave's invaluable contributions, Board President, Tom Purcell provided a long list of words and phrases he's used to describe the many special qualities Dave has brought to his work with the Venture – sincere, hardworking, detailed, professional, prepared, timely, creative, advising, technically knowledgeable, humorous, enjoys life, fun to work with, looking for new ideas and accepts new ideas, and good with his hands.

As the Treasurer, he prepared monthly Financial Statements and Transactions List, oversaw the annual audit and dealt with the auditor, ScheffelBoyle during the audit process. He worked with our financial advisor, Rickhoff, handling financial statements, 990 tax documents and others. He also managed our relationship with Daniel and Henry, the GHV insurance broker.

FARE THEE WELL, DAVE REID

As Secretary, Dave was involved in the development of meeting agendas for the Board of Directors and the Executive Committee. He ensured that all appropriate legal and organizational documents were distributed and acted on by the Board of Directors, and was involved in the development of tax letters sent to donors for their contribution to the Venture. As Chairman of the Site Committee, Dave was involved with DTLS in the development and implementation of the Embankment Educational Garden Strategy. He worked with the contractor, FocalPointe and Rick Kacenski of DTLS in the construction of the Terrace Garden and the Entry Gardens. He also was involved with the development of the lease and permit documents from MODOT, allowing The Venture to develop the I-44 Embankment. In one of his largest undertakings, he worked with UIC in the development of the architectural drawings for the planned Education Center.

Throughout the entire course of the Venture's development, Dave has been committed to achieving our goal to help make St. Louis a better place to live – both now and in the future. He will be missed.

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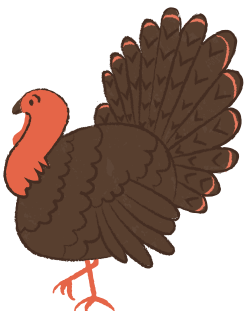
GHV Ambassadors taking plant measurements
documenting the plants growth

CURRICULUM CORNER

The Ambassadors Program is guided by a professionally developed, three-year curriculum grounded in federal and state science standards. The first two years take students from the visible to the molecular in understanding the growth of plants. In the third year, we turn to Earth systems that affect food production, including climate change. Students also learn about steps that they and their families can take to conserve the environment. Along the way, they are challenged to wrap their minds around age-appropriate lessons in Earth and atmospheric science, biology, chemistry, math, writing, art and public speaking.

**For more information about the VENTURE
and ways to support the program,
please visit our website at**

<http://www.greenhouestl.org>



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**THE GREEN HOUSE
VENTURE** IMPROVING SCIENCE
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