

The article 'Students dig new agriculture program at U. City High' (October 27) incorrectly conveys that this is the first 'hands on' public school district ag education program in the St. Louis area. Since 2018, The Green House Venture (GHV) has been teaching hundreds of kids from diverse backgrounds at four elementary schools in the City of St. Louis – including the St. Louis Public School District's Mullanphy Botanical Garden ILC – an extensive curriculum of bioscience, urban agriculture, nutrition and dietetics through similar hands-on learning experiences.

While both programs are helping stimulate a homegrown pipeline of future STEM scientists, GHV is a nonprofit organization successfully bringing together public, parochial, magnet and charter schools in an innovative educational alliance to teach urban agriculture year-round at a time when many public school districts are facing financial pressures and decreased student populations.

And unlike the University City program, GHV's students actively plant, grow and harvest foods for their families and a local food pantry at their 3.5-acre urban agriculture outdoor campus in the city's Shaw neighborhood! Best of all, many former GHV students now in high school are either pursuing a scientific career or remaining actively involved in urban food production at home.

The University City and Lindbergh school districts are now helping cultivate the future of science education in our community. Together we can make important contributions to the economic vitality of the St. Louis region for years to come.

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