



Drew Scheler <drew.scheler@snc.edu>

A letter from FCG for your class today

1 message

Bethany Thier <beth.thier@gmail.com>
To: Drew Scheler <drew.scheler@snc.edu>

Wed, Nov 29, 2017 at 4:31 PM

(Drew: Please read aloud this letter to your class today. If you would like to facetime, I would be happy to read it as well.)

Dear students in ENGL 306:

It feels funny writing the title of your class because your work this semester was so much more than **"just a class"**.

I'm reflecting on the past few months and I understand that you signed up for a professional writing **class**, and not necessarily a service project that clocks hours outside of your class meeting times. But that's what service learning looks like when you are engaging with the community - not everything can or should stay in the classroom. You took the opportunity to not only write for a community partner but to also step out as fundraisers, advancing philanthropic giving at SNC for the community. I'm so impressed!

In just the month of November, we are projected to raise over \$3,500 because of your work. As you now know, in the hands of this program that means over \$17,500 of economic relief for community gardeners is possible.

I'll let that sink in.
(You made a difference in the world this semester.)

With the documents that we created together, the FCG has been hard at work to protect, support, and grow community gardening for our area. Here's a quick list of what has happened since you started partnering with us (in no particular order).

1. The city of Green Bay's finance committee came through with funding (\$12,000) for our garden coordinator position and 100% of our current gardens will remain with the UW-Extension program for 2018/2019. We will also have a dedicated full-time coordinator. (This equates to program stability and job security.)
2. SNC is in talks to create a community garden with the UW-Extension.
Dr. Scheler is proposing that this space be SNC's first community engaged learning center. This will also be the UW-Extension's first institutionally sponsored community garden.
3. FCG has engaged with other students outside of your class about how SNC can start composting. This student lead project has the potential for SNC to take control over its food waste. It will also dovetail nicely with the SNC community garden as food waste turns into valuable fertilizer. Not only is this project student lead, but we are also talking with professors in science to help coordinate this project, allowing them access to study biodiversity in composting systems. This means that multiple parts of the college will be collaborating. (This is what community engaged learning looks like!)
4. FCG has submitted a proposal to Bellin Health for a \$25,000 sponsorship with a 5-year commitment contract.
5. FCG is in talks with Bellin about a Bellin Health Community Garden on their hospital campus. This would be the UW-Extension's second institutionally sponsored garden.
6. FCG is in talks with health professionals to start a Doctor Sponsored Community Garden, where they will not only donate the land but also sponsor the added salary dollars needed for coordinating that space.
7. With the help of FCG, the UW-Extension is looking at expanding its garden spaces into both De Pere and the West Side of Green Bay.
8. Through the partnership of the FCG, UW-Extension is looking at opening 4 (possibly 5) new gardens next year, a 150% increase in capacity. This has the potential to result in an added part-time staff person. (Program expansion and Job GROWTH!)
9. Because of our sponsorship packet, FCG has taken in four major donations and has scheduled conversations with other major donors.

10. FCG's endowment will officially open in 2017- meaning that interest will start accumulating on that account in the next fiscal year.
11. FCG is talking with SNC professors in art and the Sturzl center on future partnerships at the college. This will include a gallery showing of community garden inspired artwork next semester.
12. FCG will soon be talking with the CVC about a storytelling project that will result in an ethnically diverse community garden cookbook (one that's filled with delicious recipes and wonderful stories about gardening and food).
13. Students from your class are considering working with the FCG in the future. Their projects range from writing, creating art, and helping with legal procedures. Some of these students will potentially receive collaborative grants that not only pay a stipend but also help them gain valuable job-related experiences.
14. The FCG and the UW-Extension is in talks with the De Pere Lion's Club about starting a Legacy Community Garden for their 100th Anniversary next year. We are proposing that the land this garden is on be transferred to the FCG, making it the first permanent garden space for this program.

All of these activities were made possible through our partnership.

Now that Giving Tuesday is over, it's time to turn to thank you notes. This is my thank you to your class. Pretty meaningful stuff, right!!!

Brava!

Bethany
Friends of the Community Gardens Co-Chair
The Connected Community Consulting Group - Lead Consultant