

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

May 2019

**Contact:** Katie Carpenter, Director  
New York Agriculture in the Classroom  
E: [kse45@cornell.edu](mailto:kse45@cornell.edu)  
W: [www.agclassroom.org/ny](http://www.agclassroom.org/ny)

**TWENTY-ONE SCHOOLS RECEIVE NEW YORK AGRICULTURE IN THE CLASSROOM'S  
GROW WITH US GRANT**

*Students to connect to agriculture and the food system by growing food at school.*

Integrating of food, agriculture, and nutrition in schools is made easy, relevant and successful for teachers with New York Agriculture in the Classroom's investment of \$70,000 in the second annual Grow with Us Grant. Twenty-one indoor grow systems were awarded to urban, rural, and suburban schools across the state. The goal of New York Agriculture in the Classroom's Grow with Us Grant is to provide teachers the vehicle and tools to facilitate experiential-learning opportunities using agriculture as the context for learning through growing food during the entire school year. These grow systems create authentic learning opportunities and allow students to interact with growing food, even during the coldest months of the year.

Grow with Us Grant recipients were awarded one of two available grow systems: the 2445 Organics SuperGrow System or a Tower Garden System. Schools were awarded the grow system that best met their educational goals, classroom space needs, experience level in school gardening, and curriculum integration. The grow systems provided by the Grow with Us Grant will help raise teachers' and students' agricultural awareness by making connections to food, farming, and nutrition. The systems serve as "garden classrooms" where food-based learning is integrated with math, science, language arts, and social studies, helping teachers meet core curriculum requirements. In addition, recipients will receive educational resources, workshop opportunities, and access to a growing network of school food gardeners throughout the state.

Out of forty-seven total submissions, ten educators were awarded with 2445 Organics SuperGrow Systems and eleven educators were awarded with Tower Garden Systems. Plans for the awarded grow systems include growing vegetables to make into soup and salads that will be sold to school staff, helping students make healthier food choices, providing growing space for schools primarily surrounded by pavement, making cross-curricular connections to all areas of study, and more. Over 7,200 students will have the chance to interact with these systems and learn firsthand the connection of agriculture to their everyday lives.



3<sup>rd</sup> Floor, Kennedy Hall  
Ithaca, NY 14853

[nyaitc@cornell.edu](mailto:nyaitc@cornell.edu)  
[agclassroom.org/ny](http://agclassroom.org/ny)



Morristown student checking on one of their 2445 Organics system



Gowanda students harvesting lettuce, tomatoes, and basil from Garden at MS 582 Magnet School



Students harvesting from their Tower of their Tower Gardens

**2445 Organics SuperGrow Systems Recipients:**

- Stephen Yesko, Martin Luther School-Maspeth, New York
- Juliet Boone, F.D. Roosevelt High School- Staatsburg, New York
- Tammi Christensen, P.S. 177- Brooklyn, New York
- Zachary Makuch, Copenhagen Central School- Copenhagen, New York
- Desiree Freeman, P.S. 11 Purvis Behan Elementary School- Brooklyn New York
- Irene Martinez, Patrick F. Daly School- Brooklyn, New York
- James Franciamore, P.S. 114- Brooklyn, New York
- Jess Santiago-Sterzinar, P176X at Truaman High School- Bronx, New York
- Julie D'Agostino, Kendall Elementary- Kendall, New York
- Jodi LaGarry, Massena Central- Massena, New York

**Tower Garden Recipients:**

- Darlene Bissonette, Brasher Falls Central School- Brasher Falls, New York
- Ashley Brunelle, Tully Jr./Sr. High School- Tully, New York
- Lydia Aris-Brown, Truxton Academy Charter School- Truxton, New York
- Matthew Sarker, The Bronx High School of Science- Bronx, New York
- Kristin Stoll, Cattaraugus-Little Valley Central School- Cattaraugus, New York
- Norman Glover, Portville Central School- Portville, New York
- Josh Gray, Sidney Elementary School- Sidney, New York
- Shannon DelloStritto, Casey Park Elementary- Auburn, New York
- Patricia Eshelman, Bolivar Richburg Central School- Bolivar, New York
- Kerry Ike, Horseheads Intermediate School- Horseheads, New York
- Kelly Warwick, Windsor High School- Windsor, New York

For more information about the Grow with Us Grant, visit the New York Agriculture in the Classroom website at [www.agclassroom.org/ny](http://www.agclassroom.org/ny). New York Agriculture in the Classroom is a partnership of Cornell University, NYS Department of Agriculture & Markets, NYS Education Department, Cornell Cooperative Extension, and NY Farm Bureau. New York Agriculture in the Classroom fosters an awareness, understanding, and appreciation of our food and fiber system.

###