



Wisconsin | Campus Compact



Kids Grow

UW-Extension Division of Outreach and E-Learning, working with the Divisions of Broadcasting and Media Innovations and Cooperative Extension, created a digital youth gardening service-learning curriculum, inspired by a Milwaukee County Cooperative Extension 4-H youth horticulture program. This project consists of video clips from Wisconsin Public Television's *Wisconsin Gardener* series that are supplemented with classroom materials for teachers. The video clips and curricular materials were compiled by UW-Extension Outreach and E-Learning with support from a Wisconsin Campus Compact AmeriCorps VISTA, and were aligned to state standards by educational consultants.

The project, funded by UW-Extension's Cross-Divisional Grant program, is available to teachers across Wisconsin through the IDEAS portal website (www.Ideas.Wisconsin.edu). Ultimately, the Kids Grow project gives teachers access to innovative, interdisciplinary ways to connect their students to hands-on, experiential learning opportunities through the integration of service-learning into the gardening program.

To facilitate the collaborative process and to increase the sustainability and validity of the service-learning components, the Kids Grow project includes support from an AmeriCorps VISTA in Outreach and E-Learning, working with Wisconsin Campus Compact (WiCC). AmeriCorps/VISTA is a national program that places full-time volunteers with organizations to help them develop and strengthen programs designed to bring individuals and communities out of poverty. WiCC, part of the national Campus Compact organization, is a coalition of leaders from more than 30 Wisconsin public and private colleges and universities, including UW-Extension, who are dedicated to strengthening civic engagement in the state's postsecondary institutions. The goal of the cooperation between AmeriCorps VISTA and WiCC is to provide leadership and coordination of service-learning initiatives that address poverty by engaging high school and college students in efforts to improve academic achievement and aspirations of low-income youth.