

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
March 2, 2016

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## School Garden Promotes Leadership

OSHKOSH, WI – Celebrate Education, an annual event that honors the educators, administrators and volunteers in our schools, will take place on March 21 at 4:30 p.m. at the Oshkosh Convention Center. Last year, a Celebrate Education grant was awarded by Mid-Morning Kiwanis Club of Oshkosh to the School Garden project headed by Ivy Jeskie at Second Chance Oshkosh.

“The students in our program were so excited to have the opportunity to lead their own project,” said Jeskie. “They worked together in core classes to research, plan, design and budget for the school garden. Our students are not exposed to industrial technology classes and this project gave them the opportunity to step out of the classroom and use tools they would not normally get to use in school.”

Jeskie’s School Garden provides at-risk, special education students the chance to explore alternative school subjects that may peak their interests more than the standardized school subjects. The project revolves around the students creating an onsite garden, literally from the ground up.

“We have two junior boys who avoid school work and have negative attitudes in the classroom,” says Jeskie. “School Garden allowed them to become active, get their hands dirty, share their visions and become leaders to their fellow classmates!”

Because of the School Garden project’s success, Jeskie plans to collaborate with Growing Oshkosh to build more garden beds and create a self-sustaining watering system. To learn more about Celebrate Education and the grants that have been awarded in the past, visit [OshkoshAreaCF.Org/Celebrate\\_Education\\_2016.cfm](http://OshkoshAreaCF.Org/Celebrate_Education_2016.cfm).

Celebrate Education is an annual event hosted by the Oshkosh Area Community Foundation in partnership with the Mid-Morning Kiwanis Club of Oshkosh, Oshkosh Chamber of Commerce, Wisconsin Public Service Foundation, Oshkosh Area School District and the UWO College of



Students found the School Garden project as an outlet for their creativity that’s rarely seen elsewhere in the classroom.



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Education and Human Services. This year's Celebrate Education will be held at the Oshkosh Area Convention Center on March 21, 2016 from 4:30 to 6 p.m. Register online at [oshkoshareacf.org](http://oshkoshareacf.org) or call 920-426-3993 by March 16. Join us in recognizing our exceptional educators, innovative administrators and dedicated volunteers who enrich the lives of students in our community.

The Oshkosh Area Community Foundation is a nonprofit charitable organization created by and for the people of Winnebago County, Waushara County, Green Lake County and Ripon. Through charitable giving, the Community Foundation strives to make our communities thrive. For more information, please call 920-426-3993.

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