

LUTHER COLLEGE

Growing STEM in the Garden



For Continuing Education Credit or Graduate Credit

Dates: Mon, June 24th 9 – 2; Thurs, June 27th 9 – 2; Sat, Sept 7th 9 – 2

All class materials and lunch provided. Scholarships are available.

School gardens provide the backdrop for meaningful learning for students of all ages. Gardens serve as living laboratories that provide a context for inquiry based learning that is hands-on and naturally interdisciplinary in concepts. Many of these concepts can be applied directly to the STEM framework, engaging students in learning about the natural world using science, technology, engineering and math. School Gardens are innovative solutions to dealing with many of the current issues schools are trying to tackle including childhood obesity, nature-deficit disorder, and decreasing academic motivation. Gardens offer real world learning and problem solving opportunities.

In this class, teachers will learn how to comprehensively use a school garden to teach across curricular areas and provide a framework for STEM education.

For more information and to register:

Contact, Emily Neal, nealem01@luther for registration information, 563-387-2138

Growing the Seeds:

- Learn about national, regional and local effort to integrate school gardens in school culture to enhance curriculum, STEM education, and provide greater access to local fruits and vegetables for students.
- Learn about the benefits of a school garden to increase academic performance, promote understanding of cycles and relationships, provide fresh locally grown food to supplement school lunch and classroom activities, and inspire student performance.
- Best Practices: Who is doing what and how? Be inspired, get ideas.

Nurturing the STEM:

- Learn best teaching practices in the garden including inquiry, cooperative learning and placed-based education
- Learn strategies for managing a classroom in an outdoor setting
- Participate in lessons and activities connecting science, technology, engineering and math in the garden
- Review garden curriculum
- Create lesson designs that connect current concepts you teach with growing, maintaining and researching in the garden

Reaping the Bounty:

- Create an action plan: Plan a garden integration project for the 2013-2014 school year.

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