



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

## **Heritage Elementary School Williams Location Receives Garden Grant**

*Western Growers Foundation awards \$1,500 for campus garden*

WILLIAMS, AZ (10/20/14) – Heritage Elementary School (HES) Williams is the recipient of a grant from Western Growers Foundation that will help create and sustain a bountiful school garden. The grant, in the amount of \$1,500, may be used for building materials, gardening tools, seeds, plants, soil and mulch, composting materials and irrigation. The school also receives educational material and other resources available through the foundation.

HES Williams is currently using the funds they have received to build five raised garden beds and to purchase any soil, fertilizer, seeds and supplies that will be needed to sow the seeds and maintain the plants. Within each garden, students will grow their own vegetables, and thus, learn valuable lessons about how plants grow and how to care for them.

In March or April 2015, the students will begin planting seeds in their gardens to watch squash, tomatoes and other vegetables that thrive in the special northern Arizona climate. Once the plants have grown and are ready to harvest, students will celebrate their efforts by eating the vegetables they have grown.

“We are appreciative of this opportunity to teach students the value of planting, tending, harvesting and eating produce grown from one’s own garden,” said Kaytie Thies, HES Williams principal. “The educational mission of the Western Growers Foundation really resonates with us.”

Western Growers Foundation was created by the member farmers of Western Growers, a network of California and Arizona farmers that produce almost half of the nation’s produce. Most are family farmers, some fourth or fifth generation. The foundation was established as a way to give back to the community.

HES Williams welcomes not only the visual appeal of a school garden and the educational potential but also a vehicle to encourage interest in healthier food choices. A representative from Western Growers will visit the school in the coming year to see the garden in action.

To learn more about the School Garden Program, visit [www.csgn.org](http://www.csgn.org). Find information about the farmers who helped fund the HES Williams grant at [www.producepedia.com](http://www.producepedia.com).

**For more information about Heritage Elementary Williams, visit [www.HESWilliams.org](http://www.HESWilliams.org) or reach out to the media contacts at the bottom of this release.**

**About Heritage Elementary School**

Heritage Elementary School, founded in 2002, is one of Arizona's fastest-growing charter school systems. The tuition-free, character-based charter school is home to two campuses, one in Glendale and one in Williams, and serves more than 1,000 students in preschool through eighth grade. Both the Glendale and Williams locations offer bus/van transportation. Raena Janes, an active, award-winning advocate for Arizona education and charter schools, is the founder and charter holder. Visit the school's website at [HESWilliams.org](http://HESWilliams.org).

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