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## Growing Community-School Garden Partnerships

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# Growing Community-School Garden Partnerships

**Keywords**

university-community, community-school, garden, partnerships, service-learning

**Disciplines**

Higher Education

**Comments**

Presented at the International Association for Research on Service-Learning and Community Engagement, New Orleans, Louisiana.

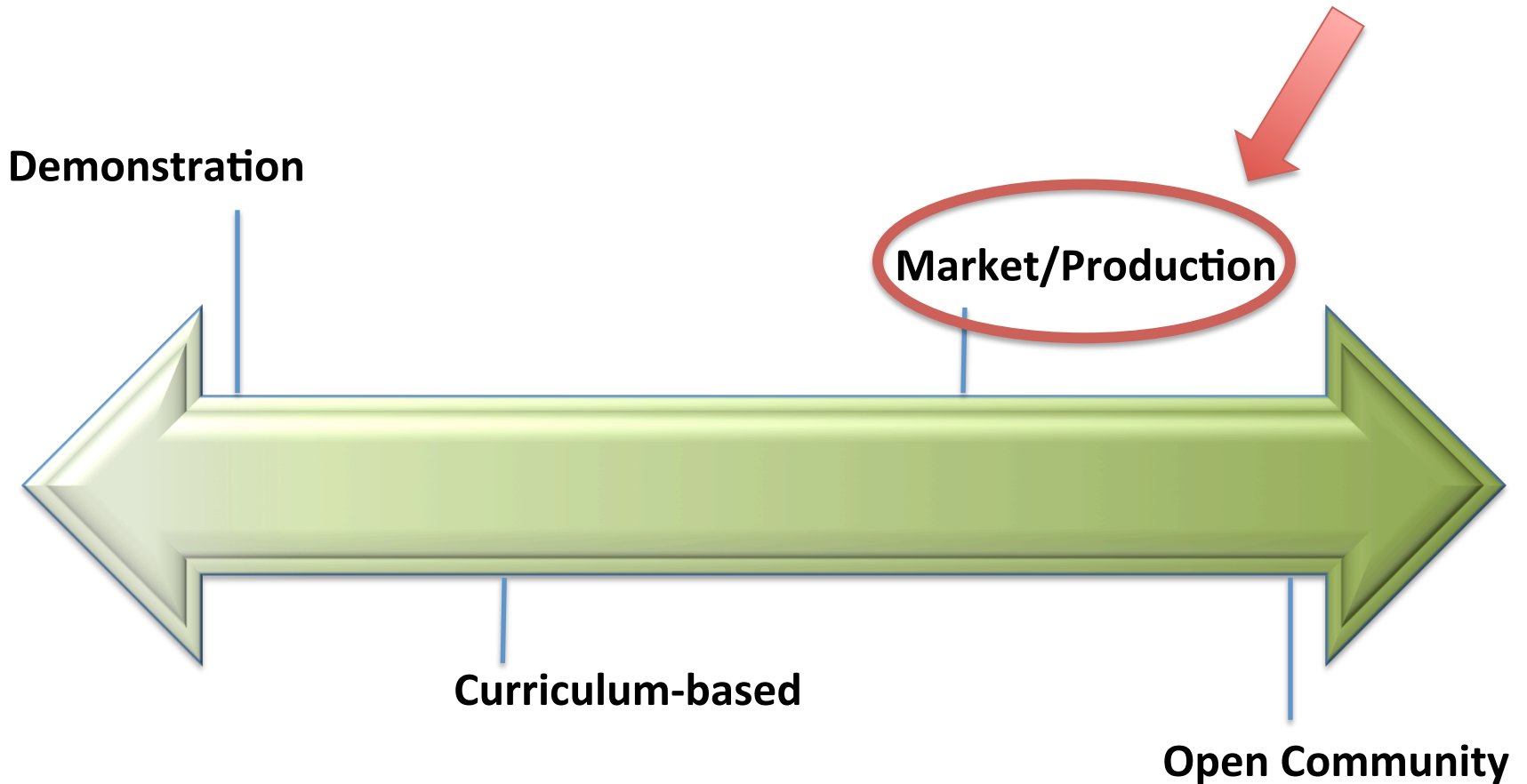


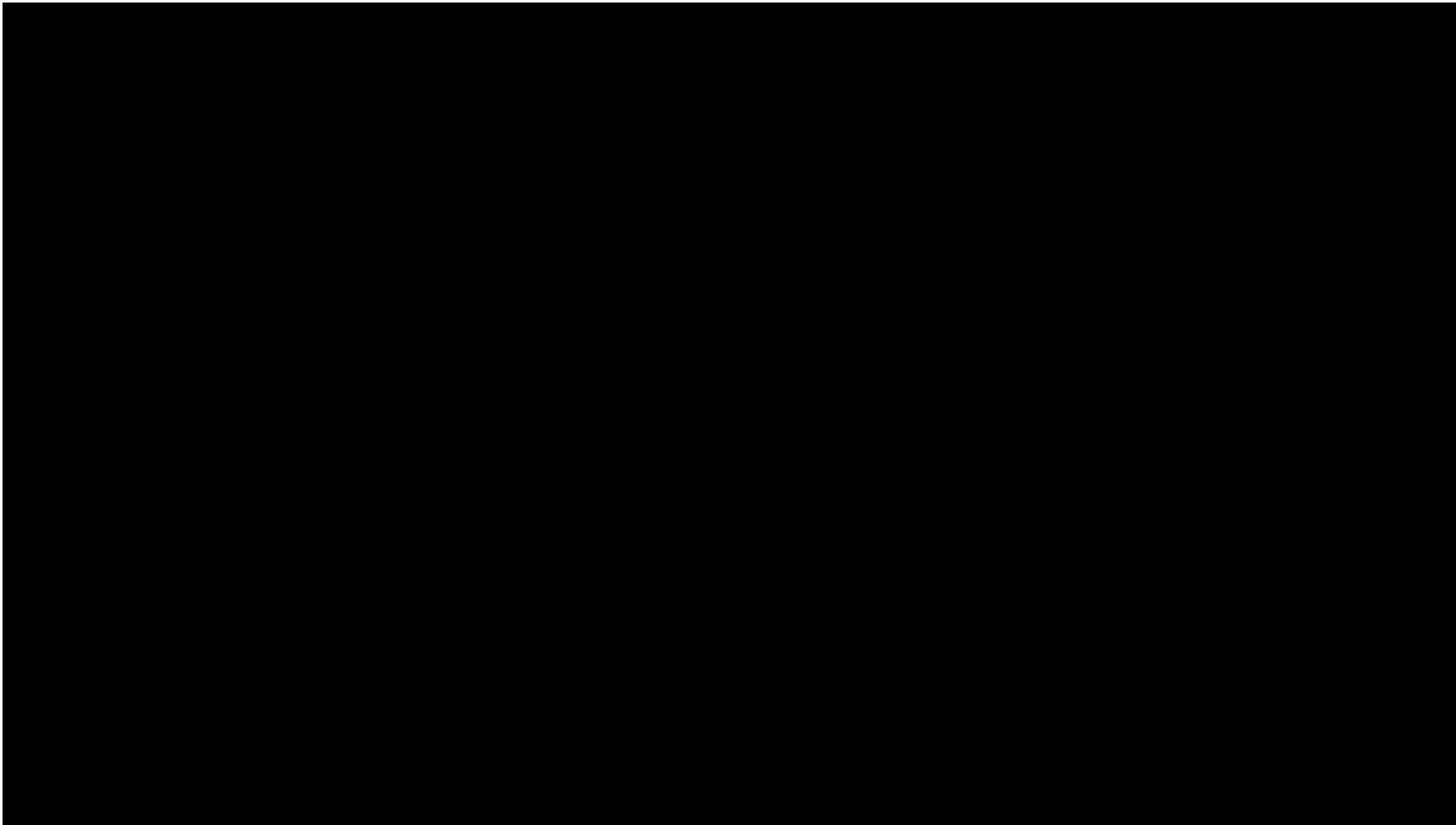
## Growing Community-School Garden Partnerships

Amanda Hall – FMS Community Garden Initiative  
Lynn Pelco – VCU Division of Community Engagement  
Toby Vernon – Community Food Collaborative, LLC

International Association for Research on Service- Learning and Community Engagement  
New Orleans, Louisiana  
October 1, 2014

# The Garden Continuum





<http://henrico.k12.va.us/hcpstv/ITM/ITM-FairfieldGarden2014.html>

# SO FAR

(Bringle & Hatcher, 2002)

## Students

Fairfield Middle School students; Virginia Commonwealth University students

## Organizations

Community Food Collaborative; Backyard Farmer; Henrico County Public Schools; Henrico County Police Athletic League; Henrico County Business Leaders; Henrico County Parks & Recreation; Eastern Henrico Business Association; Hands On Greater Richmond; Henrico County Education Foundation; Virginia Commonwealth University; Home Depot; Lowes; Scotts Miracle Grow; Union Market; East End Church Leaders Association; Fit-4-Kids; Local Media

## Faculty

Virginia Commonwealth University faculty members; Fairfield Middle School faculty members.

## Administrators

School Board & Superintendent of the Henrico County Public Schools Board; Fairfield Middle School Principal; Virginia Commonwealth University Division of Community Engagement Administrators.

## Residents

Volunteer network (community members, parents, university students); Community Market customers/patrons.

# Critical Key Partners

## Stage I

**CHAMPION** – Teacher or small cohort of school individuals

**SCHOOL/SCHOOL DIVISION ADMIN** – Principal; Curriculum Specialist(s); Superintendent; School Board Member(s)

**TECHNICAL EXPERT**– Gardening/Agriculture Expert; Community Ag/Gardening Organizations; Local Extension Office/Agents; University Ag/ENVR Science/Education Programs/Faculty

## Stage II

**KEY FUNDERS** – Grants; Private Donors; In-kind Donors

**ADVOCATES** – Local Businesses; Citizen/Community Groups; Universities/Colleges

**STUDENTS**

## Stage III

**MEDIA** – Local and Social

**VOLUNTEER NETWORK** – Community Members; Parents; Faculty; Corporate/Church/Civic Groups; University Students

**PATRONS (Support)** – Parents; Mentors; Market Customers



# FMS Community Garden Initiative

**CHAMPION** – Amanda  
(Fairfield Middle School Teacher)

**TECHNICAL EXPERT** – Toby  
(Community Food Collaborative, LLC)

**ADVOCATE** – Lynn  
(Virginia Commonwealth University)



# FMS Community Garden Initiative

**STUDENT –**

Iyanna

(FMS Community Garden  
Market Intern)



# E-T-T

(Bringle & Hatcher, 2002)

✓ Reflect

✓ Reevaluate

TRANSFORMATIONAL

TRANSACTIONAL

EXPLOITIVE

# Measuring Outcomes

**Outcomes are partner specific**

- **What is each partner's expectation of success?**
- **Multiple measures**

**Choose appropriate methodology**

# Lessons Learned

## Flexibility

- **Changes in operational modes**
- **Fluctuations in partner investment**
- **Loss of critical partner**
- **Shifting partner dynamics**

# Community – School Garden Partnership Exemplary Models



<http://kohalacenter.org/hisgn>



<http://www.growtolearn.org/>

<http://thefoodproject.org>



<http://dug.org>

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