



For Immediate Release

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STLCC, Missouri Botanical Garden Partner to Offer Scholarship Program in Horticulture

In an effort to attract a more diverse pool of job seekers to the field of horticulture, the Missouri Botanical Garden has partnered with St. Louis Community College to establish a scholarship program in horticulture.

The Missouri Botanical Garden Scholarship program in horticulture will support students from underserved and minority populations who are interested in pursuing an associate degree in horticulture at St. Louis Community College-Meramec. The program will include a scholarship for qualifying individuals to cover the cost of tuition, fees, supplies and transportation. Up to four scholarships will be available each year for a total of \$14,000 per year.

"The Missouri Botanical Garden is committed to supporting the development and education of a diverse population, including the underserved and African-Americans, in the field of horticulture," said Robert Herleth, executive vice president. "We are hopeful that over the long run this scholarship program will increase the number of employees dedicated to horticulture, both at the Garden and in the community."

The scholarship is renewable each year as long as a student maintains a grade-point average of 2.5 or higher, demonstrates satisfactory academic performance and satisfactory internship performance at the Missouri Botanical Garden.

Additionally, the Missouri Botanical Garden will provide a paid part-time internship to allow students to gain hands-on experience.

"We are delighted to be partnering with the Missouri Botanical Garden," said Paul Pai, STLCC-Meramec president. "St. Louis Community College is committed to providing accessible education to all who can benefit from it. As affordable as we are, many students still need financial assistance, and this new scholarship provides a great opportunity for them to pursue their goals through work and study."

STLCC-Meramec's program teaches students the science and art of horticulture through a combination of classroom theory, laboratory practice and on-the-job training. Students are trained in the college's greenhouses, outdoor nursery facilities, laboratories and lath houses.

"Our program graduates find challenging careers in a variety of areas that are both locally and globally relevant," said Paul Roberts, director of Meramec's horticulture program.

Students may specialize in nursery management, interior landscape design and maintenance, greenhouse management, horticulture retail sales, commercial grounds management and urban

forestry. Graduates are trained for jobs with state and city park departments, nurseries, landscape contracting firms, golf courses and retail sales.

To be eligible, students must complete the scholarship application; have completed high school or a GED, or be currently enrolled in the STLCC horticulture program; have a minimum GPA of 2.5; and submit an essay of up to 500 words detailing their vocational aspirations. Preference may be given to qualifying students who are graduates of the Green Tree Academy program.

For more information, contact Roberts at 314-984-7714 or via e-mail, proberts@stlcc.edu.

Established in 1962, St. Louis Community College is the largest community college district in Missouri and one of the largest in the United States. STLCC has four campuses – Florissant Valley, Forest Park, Meramec and Wildwood – that annually serve more than 120,000 students through credit, non-credit and continuing education courses. For more information about STLCC, visit www.stlcc.edu.

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