Nebraska Two-Year Opportunity Grants

End of Grant Summary

EXPANDED LEARNING OPPORTUNITY GRANT
Funded by the Nebraska Lottery

NEBRASKA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

Nebraska 21st Century Community Learning Centers
Soaring Beyond Expectations

GRANTEE

Crete Public Schools

OVERVIEW

Through a partnership with Grow with the Flow, a local aquaponic horticulture business, Crete Middle School students worked with experts to renovate an existing greenhouse and build an aquaponic system inside the structure. The system was maintained by the students and resulted in fresh lettuce and other vegetables that could be consumed. Students also built indoor tower gardens, growing and harvesting vegetables throughout the school year when outdoor gardening opportunities were not available. This project also included a component where students were able to experience environments that may not normally have been available to them due to cost, distance or time. Virtual Reality goggles were used to take students on virtual field trips to explore ancient civilizations and observe events and celebrations in other cultures around the world. This project enhanced learning from the school day classroom and increased the vocabulary of some English learners who combined these visuals with words.

SITES

Crete Intermediate School
Crete Middle School

PARTNERS

Grow with the Flow
Nebraska Extension
Spring Creek Prairie
Timberlake Ranch
Wessels Living History Farm

FOCUS AREAS

Social studies, language and recreation

AMOUNT AWARDED

$30,000

PARTICIPANTS

310 (Grades 6-8)

89% REGULAR ATTENDERS

FREE & REDUCED LUNCH

71%

25% ENGLISH LEARNERS

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