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CLASP PROGRAM PROMOTES SUSTAINABILITY ON CAMPUS

Houston, March 4, 2010 – A new sustainability program called CLASP was recently formed at the University of Houston. CLASP stands for Community Learning and Sustainability Program, and it furthers the sustainability initiatives implemented at UH.

CLASP’s stated mission is as follows: “The University of Houston's Community Learning Agricultural Sustainability Program strengthens our community bonds to spread knowledge about the cultivation of plants both native and edible, and about sustainable food choices.”

Thus, the group seeks to educate the campus about sustainable practices, particularly as it relates to vegetation and food consumption.

CLASP is comprised of five programs, including the Campus Community Garden, the Composting Program, Agricultural Sustainability Discussion Circle, the Community Partnerships Program, and Urban Harvest classes.

The Campus Community Garden grows vegetables for use in campus dining recipes, and also serves to educate the community about sustainable choices.

The Composting Program involves collecting nitrogen-rich food waste from the dining halls and converting it into fertilizer for the Campus Community Garden.

The Agricultural Sustainability Discussion Circle meets once a month to read and discuss articles related to agricultural sustainability.

The Community Partnership Program conducts educational and emotional-learning activities in on-campus gardens and compost locations with partners in the community. This program also connects UH resources with Third Ward community gardens.
Urban Harvest Classes are offered on campus as The University of Houston partners with Urban Harvest, a Houston gardening organization. The classes and panel discussions will be offered at membership rates for UH students and staff, and free monthly panel series on local eating will also be available.

Many of these programs are in need of student support and involvement. UH looks forward to pursuing sustainable practices with the help of a supportive community.

For more information about CLASP and how to get involved, contact Leah Wolfthal at 832.842.9051 or lwolftha@central.uh.edu.

About the University of Houston

The University of Houston, Texas’ premier metropolitan research and teaching institution, is home to more than 40 research centers and institutes and sponsors more than 300 partnerships with corporate, civic and governmental entities. UH, the most diverse research university in the country, stands at the forefront of education, research and service with more than 35,000 students.