C.L.A.S.P. HOSTS FIRST COMMUNITY GARDEN SUMMIT

Houston, March 24, 2011 – University community gardeners from across the nation come together for the first time at the University of Houston for the First Annual National University and College Community Garden Summit on April 8 – 9. University of Houston’s Community Learning Agricultural Sustainability Program (C.L.A.S.P.) invited schools to the summit to discuss different aspects of running a community garden and meet their peers.

“The purpose of the summit is to share best practices, share solutions and answers to problems and questions and grow together as a community,” said Leah Wolfthal, C.L.A.S.P. Coordinator.

Eleven schools will be attending the summit sessions held in the multipurpose rooms in Calhoun Lofts. Friday evening, participants will be given a tour of the Houston area community gardens and a moonlit walk through Memorial Park. Guests will have the option of organic, local dining at either SNAP Kitchen or Field of Greens.

The next morning, participants will have the option to rise early for Relaxation Garden Yoga followed by check-in and breakfast. Six sessions will explore topics such as the basics of starting a garden, student involvement and marketing your garden, fiscal sustainability and gardening for health. One session will also discuss environmental sustainability to discuss ways to conserve water and energy, composting, rooftop and aquaponic gardening practices. The last session will explore options for connecting the community to your garden, whether academically or the outside community.

“We hope schools will leave with relationships they can rely on for when they need help in the future and to also share their successes with,” Wolfthal said.

For more information on the summit and the Campus Community Garden, visit the C.L.A.S.P. Facebook fan page at http://www.facebook.com/pages/Campus-Community-Garden/160638127118.

About the University of Houston

The University of Houston is a comprehensive national research institution serving the globally competitive Houston and Gulf Coast Region by providing world-class faculty, experiential learning
and strategic industry partnerships. UH serves more than 38,500 students in the nation’s fourth-largest city, located in the most ethnically and culturally diverse region of the country.