

Green Works

ECOS students explored local parks in their neighborhoods.

Empowering youth

to protect our environment, contribute to our economy, and create healthy communities.

Mission & Key Principles

Green Works in Kansas City excels at environmental education and workforce development for urban high school students and in creating partnerships with local businesses, and organizations that open doors for our students and positively impact their futures. We educate students about the environment and involve them in meaningful service projects. We provide job skill training and financial literacy training to prepare our students for summer internships, and life after high school.

Key Principles

- We serve students living in neighborhoods served by the Kansas City Public Schools.
- We believe the best way to improve critical thinking skills is through project-based learning in a social setting with other students and caring adults.
- We incorporate national best practices including quality staff, small class size and long-term involvement.
- We offer holistic educational experiences including field trips and community service projects designed to appeal to all types of learners.
- We involve volunteer professionals in all our programs to help students build self-confidence and strengthen their social networks.
- We incorporate a respect for the environment into every aspect of our programming and administration.

ANNUAL REPORT

September 2017 - August 2018



Kimberly Hess with the Lakeside Nature Center was a guest for one of our community education programs.

Midtown Classroom

For the first time in our history, we now have our own classroom space. Along with staff office space, we are using the classroom for our workforce programs including Excelerate and digital and financial literacy electives. We also hosted two community education programs this year with more than 70 community members. In late 2017, we celebrated our 10-year anniversary with two events at our space, which raised nearly \$5,000 for our programs.

IMPACT:

100+
Students served
annually

14k
Hours of
internships funded

100%
Student high school
graduation rate

4k+
Native plants planted
in urban KCMO



Green Work's supporter Mithra Amaran and Board Members Amy, Deana and Kate hosted an Indian dinner and cooking demonstration at Mithra's home in April.

Board Members

- Jensen Adams, Energy & Sustainability Manager at Kansas City Public Schools
- Deana Barger, Environmental Manager for Harley-Davidson Vehicle and Powertrain Operation
- Scott Bingham, Principal Landscape Architect with BBN Architects, Inc.
- Ryan Bresette CPA, Live Like Luke Foundation
- Amy Coopman, Employment law attorney at Foland, Wickens, Eisfelder, Roper & Hofer, PC
- Kate Corwin, President at Green Works in Kansas City
- Calvin Girard, Senior Manager of Investor Relations for Great Plains Energy
- Neila Seda, Project Designer in the Water Resources Group at Shafer, Kline & Warren
- Manuel Solano, M.D., Medical Director for Samuel U. Rodgers Health Center

Our Programs

Environmental education and workforce development for urban teens

ECOS

Our core first-year program ECOS (Environmental Connection Opportunities for Students) is a year-long out-of-school program that includes field trips to urban parks, hikes, bird watching, identification of native trees and plants, water quality testing, solid waste and recycling projects and a ride on the Missouri River. This was our first year of the redesign of ECOS to directly address nature deficit disorder and the need to encourage our students to spend more time outside.



ECOS students from Northeast High School hike together on a beautiful fall afternoon.

Excelerate

Our core second-year program covering career exploration and workforce development helps students prepare for post-secondary education and the workforce. Students take skill and interest evaluations, research three growing careers, prepare a resume, take part in job shadowing, and participate in money management training, and soft skill training.

This year we added Saturday afternoon digital and financial literacy electives to increase the amount of time we spent on these important topics.

Summer Internships

We raised money to place 15 of our accomplished students into paid summer internships that aligned with their interests and skills. This is the most we've ever placed! Our students spent their summers at locations including the Kansas City University



Roxana plans to enter the field of biochemistry. She spent her summer working at the Kansas City University of Medicine and Biosciences.

of Medicine and Biosciences, Kansas City Public Television (KCPT), Samuel U. Rodgers Health Center, SquareOne Studio, State Farm, and the Missouri Department of Conservation.

Along with improving students' self esteem and resiliency, internships impact academics and future success. Summer internships can increase academic performance. A Department of Labor study found that summer employment can increase reading and math levels by more than one grade in a majority of students. And summer internships can increase future job success and earnings. Early employment provides a smoother transition to the labor market and higher weekly earnings for up to 15 years after high school graduation.

Interns, Shahid and Roxana along with Jose and Keyaira are featured in videos created by Sam Sullivan, a Green Works intern from William Jewell. The videos can be found on our [website program page](#).



Shahid is interested in computer security and spent the summer working on a website for KCPT.

Program Outcomes

As our students advance towards high school graduation and into post-secondary education and the workplace, our role is to help them grow into independent, resilient, and accountable adults who are actively engaged in our community. We measure our success through the following outcomes:

1. Increase in science literacy
2. Changed behaviors towards the environment
3. Improvement of life skills including financial literacy
4. Hours of work experience through paid summer internships
5. Increase in social capital connections

National & Local Press

We benefited from two news stories this year. The first was a national article in the [Christian Science Monitor](#) featuring one of our graduates, Lyndon Ersery, and a long-time volunteer, Jerry Rose. Lyndon is getting close to completing his engineering degree at the University of Missouri. During his time with Green Works, Lyndon took part in Green Works' summer internships at HNTB and Taliaferro and Browne.



Lyndon and Jerry were featured in a national article in the Christian Science Monitor.

The second news story was a video produced by [WDAF-TV4](#) Kansas City. They came along with our Exceleerate students for a job site visit to Olsson Associates and documented our students meeting with employees, and trying their hand at designing bike lanes.

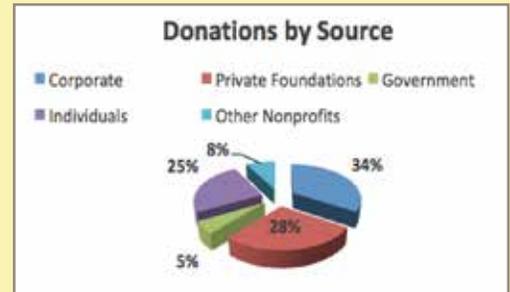


Exceleerate students enjoyed visiting Olsson Associates, meeting employees and touring the office.



Exceleerate students visited Google's downtown office. Google provides free internet service for our midtown classroom!

About Your Donations



Year 11 Funders

- Taylor & Patti Abernathy Trust
- Bank of America
- BlueScope
- Curry Family Foundation
- Harley-Davidson
- H&R Block
- KCP&L
- Mariner Foundation
- M.R. and Evelyn Hudson Foundation
- RA Long Foundation
- Shumaker Family Foundation
- State Street
- United Way of Greater Kansas City
- US Bank



Kate taught the ECOS program for the first four years.

History and Contact Info

Green Works in Kansas City was founded by Kate Corwin, an IT professional, former business owner and community leader. Green Works was incorporated in the state of Missouri in February of 2007 and recognized as a nonprofit corporation under Section 501(c)3 of the Internal Revenue Code in September 2007.

Contact us: kate@greenworkskc.org, 816-304-8400
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greenworkskc.org



How You Can Help



Jim Eisenbrandt volunteers for Green Works. Find out why on our website.

There are many ways to help Green Works. One way is through a monetary contribution. Your contribution is tax deductible, and many companies match employee donations. If your company participates in the United Way campaign, you can designate Green Works for all or part of your gift.

Aside from direct contributions, we use some volunteers as guest instructors, student mentors and for planting projects. If you are interested in volunteering, contact Kate at kate@greenworkskc.org to be included on our volunteer list.

If you are a current supporter or volunteer, please write a review of Green Works on GreatNonprofits at greatnonprofits.org. Many funders use this website to research nonprofits.

If you are active on social media, you can connect with us on Facebook or Instagram and help promote Green Works. You can also sign up for our newsletter on our website (greenworkskc.org) and forward the newsletter to your contacts who are interested in youth development and environmental education.

Looking Ahead to Year 12

We continue to adapt our programming to meet the needs of our student population. Specifically for environmental education, we are changing the focus for our ECOS program from high school age students to middle school. However, we are not forgetting about our high school students. In the upcoming year we have a number of environmental service projects planned to help our high school students earn community service hours.

In the area of workforce development, we have formally adopted stand-alone digital and financial literacy programs as electives for our Excelerate students. And finally, we have big plans to expand our Green Works Lab entrepreneurial program that combines environmental education with workforce development.



Our redesigned website includes more student stories and photos. Visit greenworkskc.org