

PRESS RELEASE

Contact Information

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Michelle Stamper, a teacher at Penny Road Elementary School has been selected by NC Beautiful to receive an environmental education grant of \$1,000. The award is part of the NC Beautiful's Windows of Opportunity Grant Program, which rewards North Carolina teachers for their creativity and their dedication to perpetuating the natural beauty of the state through creative education projects. Mrs. Michelle Stamper stated "We are honored and excited to receive this generous grant from NC Beautiful! We are so thankful for the opportunity to have so many hands-on activities to add to our Science curriculum here at Penny Road Elementary! Thank you to NC Beautiful for helping to spark an interest and motivate our students to be good stewards of what we have been given."

Mrs. Stamper will use the award to create a vermicomposting and container gardening program for Penny Road Elementary third graders as well as installing a NC Native Plant Garden at the school. In addition, rain barrels will be installed to provide the necessary water for maintaining these new gardens.

The annual Windows of Opportunity Program, developed and administered by NC Beautiful has awarded tens of thousands of dollars to schools all across North Carolina, from the mountains to the coast. "By rewarding these teachers for their innovation and hard work, we can ensure that our children and grandchildren are participating in a project that sparks a lifelong interest in nature" says Steve Vacendak, Executive Director of NC Beautiful. "They will appreciate this beautiful state even more for having had a teacher who went above and beyond to give them a hands-on, real world experience. We are proud to be a small part of that discovery.

For forty years, NC Beautiful has focused on merit-based programs which provide hands-on experience in preserving North Carolina's natural beauty. We believe that environmental education and community involvement are the keys to addressing North Carolina's environmental challenges. For more information about programs in which your community, schools, and citizens can participate, contact NC Beautiful at P.O. Box 10155, Raleigh, NC 27605, call 919-828-3190, or visit www.ncbeautiful.org.