

## **Gardening Is Cheaper Than Therapy!**

**November 2, 2021**

**Dear SBARE Members,**

**I am here to request funding for a greenhouse to be used at NDSU for research and education. This would replace the current greenhouse at Waldron Hall, and is so necessary.**

**Growing up on a farm near Strasburg, I was a locavore way before that was a word or a trend. A locavore is a person whose diet consists only or mainly of locally grown or produced food. We had our chickens, eggs, cattle, milk cows, hogs, and many gardens of vegetables to provide food for our family. That was our way of life and for all the farm families around us too.**

**What goes around, comes around as there is a real interest in locally grown food again. The millennial and younger generations, especially, want food that has been grown sustainably, with minimal inputs, and a real concern for the environment. They are also discovering a love of green plants in the home, spending time planting in the yard, flowers, and gardening. The growing trends in fairy garden plantings, succulents, gardening, and house plants have the industry exploding.**

**There is a real perception that Horticulture is a low-paying job industry. That may be true in some instances, but there are also many good paying and highly rewarding jobs available in the industry. Our industry is desperate for educated workers!**

**We have become a global economy, and with this, there are increasing issues with insects and diseases causing problems with our native plants. Think of Dutch Elm Disease, Japanese Beetle, Bur Oak Blight, and Emerald Ash Borer as some of the most important threats to our plants in North Dakota.**

**The research and education at North Dakota State University is addressing all of the issues mentioned above. They are seeing a large number of horticulture major students with more already signed up to come in next year. Over the years, there have been NDSU tomato and vegetable varieties released that are great for our state – Cannonball, Lark, and Sheyenne tomatoes, Gold Nugget Squash, and Mantador Broccoli come to mind. Thus far, NDSU has released 60 tree and shrub varieties that are all hardy and adapted for our state. This is so important because other companies and universities do research but often their releases are not tough enough to handle our cold, pH, and wind. Their plants are geared toward larger population areas to increase their sales. NDSU is here with us!**

**Please fund a new greenhouse for Horticulture use at NDSU. Thank you!**

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**Retired Executive Director, North Dakota Nursery, Greenhouse, & Landscape Association**