



**For Immediate Release**

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### **10<sup>th</sup> Annual Georgia Environmental Conference Announces Partnership with Mary Lin Elementary School for its Future Environmental Leader Program**

**Jekyll Island, GA – August 26, 2015** – The Annual Georgia Environmental Conference, lead by our Steering Committee of 50 Environmental Professionals, is pleased to announce Atlanta Public Schools’ Mary Lin Elementary School, as the first recipient of the Future Environmental Leader Program (FELP!) recognition award.

The mission of FELP! is to promote a positive impact on environmental education while engaging students, teachers, and parents. Mary Lin Elementary School’s administration, teachers, and community are committed to establishing a lasting legacy for the Future Environmental Leader Program by conducting an “Initial Review” to define the program’s goals and to identify the appropriate partnership(s) with FELP! supporters, such as the University of Georgia - College of Agriculture and Environmental Sciences, Georgia Tech – Civil and Environmental Engineering Department, U.S. Green Building Council – Georgia Chapter, Captain Planet Foundation, Georgia Organics, Atlanta Beltline, Inc., Coca-Cola, Atlanta Regional Commission, and many more.

“We are pleased to participate in this hands-on activity to establish an outdoor classroom that will allow the students to connect with nature and learn how their food is grown,” said Susan Varlamoff, Director of Agricultural & Environmental Sciences at UGA.

Each year at the Georgia Environmental Conference, a school showing this level of initiative and commitment to establishing a Future Environmental Leader Program will be recognized. FELP! fosters (1) the connections between schools and available environmental programs; and (2) the connections between schools and possible funding assistance. The program is funded primarily through donations and grants from citizens, interested organizations, and program partners. This year’s conference will be held at the LEED Certified Jekyll Island Convention Center. Jekyll Island is located on Georgia’s east coast, southeast of Atlanta and Macon (294 and 211 miles, respectively) and north of Jacksonville (74 miles).

To learn more about the 10<sup>th</sup> Annual Georgia Environmental Conference, visit <http://www.GeorgiaENet.com/>

#### **About the Annual Georgia Environmental Conference**

The Annual Georgia Environmental Conference is the state’s largest, most comprehensive and diverse educational opportunity and will be attended by over 700 local, state, and federal government officials, business and industry leaders, attorneys, consultants, engineers, developers, land owners, architects, agribusiness leaders, energy experts, water planning districts, universities, public health officials, solid waste, enviro-tech, and recycling experts, and many others with strong interests in environmental activities in the Georgia and Southeast region.

Over the three-day event, this conference will host an elite group of environmental professionals seeking to exchange knowledge and share ideas around environmental concerns in Georgia and across the Southeast region. The curriculum—j designed and developed by our 50 member Steering Committee—offers 56 unique courses, allowing attendees to design their own personalized curriculum by selecting 10 educational breakout sessions. These courses will allow student receive approved Continuing Education Credits. With the combined efforts of the Southeast’s leading environmental organizations, the Annual Georgia Environmental Conference has proven to be a valued educational requirement focused on “sustaining the future for the people of Georgia and the Southeast region.”

#### **About Atlanta Public Schools**

Atlanta Public Schools is one of the largest school districts in the state of Georgia, serving approximately 50,000 students across 106 learning sites. The district is organized into nine K-12 clusters with 87 schools, 17 charter schools and two citywide single-gender academies, where students are offered rigorous instructional programs that foster success in school and life. For more information, visit [www.atlantapublicschools.us](http://www.atlantapublicschools.us)