

Material Reuse Program recognized by Clarke County School District

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College of Environment + Design UNIVERSITY OF GEORGIA

CED's Material Reuse Program was among the six organizations honored with the annual Impact Awards, sponsored by the Clarke County School district, on June 9th. Recipients of this year's awards were announced at a ceremony at the Athens Community Career Center. The annual award recognizes organizations and volunteers "who have made significant, lasting and ongoing contributions to the students of the Clarke County School District," according to the school district.

The Materials reuse program is coordinated at CED by Chris McDowell, who holds an MLA degree from the college and combines design-build community projects with teaching. The program diverts construction and demolition waste on the university's campus and finds creative ways to re-use and recycle. McDowell and student volunteers provided design consulting, materials, and implementation of projects that directly benefited students and teachers in the Clarke County School District. For the past four years, numerous projects have come to fruition, including a kitchen herb garden that was installed with students at Clarke Central High School.

McDowell and his teams also increased Coile Middle School's sustainability program by providing free materials and volunteering time on environmental projects, specifically a pollinator habitat garden. This project, funded by a grant from Rosalynn Carter's "Monarchs Across Georgia" program, garnered national attention when it was recognized as an example of exceptional outreach to Latinos by the White House Initiative on Educational Excellence for Hispanics. The Material Reuse Program has also donated time and expertise in grant writing and visioning to develop plans for establishing a Sustainable Agriculture and Arts Community Center at Coile Middle School.

"The Impact Award recipients and Volunteer of the Year have made significant contributions to our students and employees, and they are most deserving of this recognition," said Superintendent Philip D. Lanoue. "We are very appreciative of all of our nearly 400 community

partners and the hundreds of individuals who spend time volunteering in our schools, and this recognition is one way for us to let individuals and organizations know they are making a real difference in our community.”

To read the official press release, [CLICK HERE](#).

For more information about Chris McDowell and the Material Reuse Program at CED, please contact the [Center for Community Design and Preservation](#).