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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Vineyard STEM Magnet School Student Wins Big With the Rancho Cucamonga Quakes and Kellogg Garden Organics

It started with a simple challenge. Design a raised bed garden for your school. This was the task presented to Skylar Petrolite-Durbin and his 5th grade class last April. Little did he know that when he returned to Vineyard STEM Magnet School in August as a 6th grader, he would be celebrated as the winner of the garden design contest that was sponsored by Kellogg Garden Organics and the Rancho Cucamonga Quakes.

Skylar and his classmates worked on the garden design project with their teacher, Mr. David Poulos, and the STEM Instructional Coach, Mrs. Lizzy Flores. Together, the teachers worked with the students on the garden design project as they taught focused lessons about organic materials, growth cycles, and plant varieties.

The garden design project was a perfect match for Skylar and his classmates as it helped them to apply the STEM Learning Skills that are a part of their 5th grade program at Vineyard STEM. Mrs. Flores shared, "This project allowed the students to explore and apply all of the STEM skills we have been teaching students this school year. It was so exciting to see the students using their STEM skills of Communication, Critical Thinking, Creativity, and Collaboration in this fun STEM learning project!"

Skylar's garden design was selected amongst countless entries. As his reward, he will work with his 6th grade Environmental Science elective class and the Kellogg Garden Organics professionals to build his raised garden bed on the school campus at Vineyard STEM Magnet School. "We are so excited to see Skylar's garden as part of the STEM learning garden projects that we are developing at Vineyard STEM this year. We look forward to seeing our students work together with members of the business community and school community to make Skylar's garden design a STEM project for the entire school to experience and learn from," said Mrs. Gateley, the Principal at Vineyard STEM Magnet School. The STEM learning garden opening ceremony event is tentatively scheduled for October 2015.

Not only has Skylar earned the privilege of working along side the Kellogg Garden Organics professionals on his project, but he is also being rewarded by the Rancho Cucamonga Quakes

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baseball team as well. As the winner of the garden contest, Skylar will be able to attend the Quakes baseball game on Friday, August 28th with his family and classmates and throw out the first pitch of the game. “This is the coolest thing ever! I can’t believe how lucky I am!” exclaimed Skylar when his winning project was announced.

Board President Maureen “Moe” Mendoza stated, “The Board of Trustees is very proud of Skylar and Vineyard STEM Magnet School. We are excited to see his garden. This is a wonderful example of a student applying his STEM education to improve his school environment. Congratulations to Skylar and the entire Vineyard STEM Magnet School”.

Congratulations to Skylar Petrolite-Durbin and thank you to Kellogg Garden Organics and the Rancho Cucamonga Quakes for supporting STEM learning and the students of Vineyard STEM Magnet School.