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\*\*\*For Immediate Release\*\*\*

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## Two Teachers Win Meatrix Curricula Contest



The Global Resource Action Center for the Environment (GRACE), the group behind the award-winning Internet flash animation film *The Meatrix*, was delighted to award two teachers—Melissa Bannister of Downey Elementary School (Harrisburg, PA) and VaReane Heese of Springfield Elementary (Springfield, NE)—for their stellar *Meatrix*-based lesson plans.

Earlier this year, GRACE invited teachers from grades 5-8 to submit a curriculum based on the farming and health topics covered in *The Meatrix*, an anti-factory farming spoof of *The Matrix*. Now, just in time for the start of the new school year, GRACE has announced a first and second place winner who will respectively receive \$1000 and \$500 for classroom supplies, in addition to *Meatrix* mugs, t-shirts, magnets, and pins for their classes.

The imaginative lesson plans, which focus on sharpening kids' research, writing, and critical thinking skills, are now posted on GRACE's website, Sustainable Table (<http://www.sustainabletable.org/schools/teachers/curriculum>), for use by any teacher who is interested in educating students about sustainable agriculture. Melissa Bannister received the first place award for developing a lesson plan that allows students to understand what they eat and why by using both scientific and social approaches. VaReane Heese, the second place winner, presented a lesson plan that had students create a brochure and commercial informing people about sustainable agriculture.

Sustainable Table also has a "Teacher Resources" page (<http://www.sustainabletable.org/schools/teachers/>), which teachers are encouraged to peruse for fun and useful classroom activities related to farming and food.

Congratulations Melissa and VaReane!

