

PA Farm News

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Agricultural Mosaic Unveiled at W.B. Saul School of Agricultural Sciences

HARRISBURG -- Commuters driving along a busy city street may develop a greater appreciation for agriculture thanks to a highly-visible mosaic created by students at W.B. Saul High School of Agricultural Sciences in Philadelphia, unveiled Friday, April 25, by Agriculture Executive Deputy Secretary Russell Redding.



Redding joined Senator Shirley Kitchen and Representatives Kathy Manderino and Art Hershey to unveil a five-panel agricultural tile mosaic created by W.B. Saul students and staff and NetworkArts, a Philadelphia-based non-profit group dedicated to education through mosaics and creative learning.

The mosaic is on front of the school's dairy barn, visible from Henry Avenue, a well-traveled city road, said Redding.

"Today we celebrate the hard work of W.B. Saul students to help educate their neighbors about agriculture and the important role it plays in our lives," said Redding. "Through the education and opportunities available at W.B. Saul, the next

generation of agricultural leaders will include those born and raised in urban settings who have a true understanding of the work that goes into protecting our natural resources and feeding the world."

For more than five months, students worked with NetworkArts to develop a bright and engaging tile mosaic, which includes agriculture and environmental best management practices and technologies, and native plant and animal species from the local Wissahickon Valley. The mosaic is 125 feet long, by nine feet tall.

"Through the mosaic, W.B. Saul is building a strong relationship with the public, bringing attention to the important work done every day by those in the agricultural industry and this very special school," added Redding.

The mosaic was done with the support of the Fairmount Park Commission, which oversees the more than 9,200 acres of parkland throughout Philadelphia, including the 120 acres that make up the W.B. Saul campus.

Following the mosaic unveiling, Redding joined Senator Kitchen, Representatives Manderino and Hershey and officials from the Fairmount Park Commission, City of Philadelphia, School Reform Commission, School District of Philadelphia and the Roxborough Garden Club to continue the 30-year tradition of planting an Arbor Day tree on W.B. Saul's campus.

More than 500 public school students attend the W.B. Saul High School of Agricultural Sciences in Philadelphia, the largest agricultural high school in the United States. The school is home to the largest single-school FFA chapter in the world. For more information, visit www.phila.k12.pa.us/schools/saul.

Courtesy Photo: Agriculture Department Executive Deputy Secretary Russell Redding, Senator Shirley Kitchen, Representative Kathy Manderino and Representative Art Hershey helped unveil the new dairy barn mosaic created by

W.B. Saul High School of Agricultural Sciences students.

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