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NEWSLETTER OF THE DANFORTH CENTER

# WHD Legacy Society

VOLUME 5, ISSUE 2: FALL 2021

## BACK TO SCHOOL WITH JACKIE JOYNER KERSEE

*New Danforth Center Partnership Aims to Inspire Students*



Track star Jackie Joyner-Kersee holds six Olympic medals, but she never forgot where she came from. The Jackie Joyner-Kersee Foundation in East St. Louis exists to inspire youth to thrive in academics, athletics, and to enhance their community.

The Danforth Center has partnered with JJK and the University of Illinois to create a groundbreaking new enterprise.

The **Jackie Joyner-Kersee Food, Agriculture, and Nutrition Innovation** Center, located in East St. Louis, is dedicated to **creating**

**opportunities for young people in agriculture and plant science.** Through training, mentoring, and unique learning programs, the partnership will engage students in STEAM enrichment to prepare them for college and careers.

Danforth Center Principal Investigator

**Kristine Callis-Duehl, PhD**, the Sally and Derick Driemeyer Director of Education Research and Outreach, visited with



## BACK TO SCHOOL WITH JACKIE JOYNER KERSEE *cont.*

students there recently, along with Taylor Harris, a graduate student in the Bart Lab. Taylor spoke to the students about her work and encouraged the fifth graders to find their “inner scientist.” Students participated in hands-on learning in the greenhouse to prepare for a later

planting project.

*When you make a planned gift to the Danforth Center, you create a legacy of hope for people and new opportunities for the people in St. Louis. For more information, call 314.587.1234.*

*“It’s important that our youth meet scientists that look like them and that come from similar backgrounds because it lets them know ‘Hey, you can do this too!’”*

**Taylor Harris**

*graduate student, Bart Lab*



## THE WHD LEGACY SOCIETY

The Danforth Legacy Society has been officially renamed the **WHD Legacy Society** in honor of our late founder Dr. William H. Danforth. Since his passing last September, many of us have given thought to the legacy of Dr. Danforth. He was a visionary leader who worked tirelessly to unite people to make a difference, both in St. Louis and around the world.

His estate gift commitment was the first legacy promise to the Danforth Center, and through it, he has helped ensure that the Center’s work to *improve the human condition through plant science* will continue. We hope you will be proud to call yourself a member of the WHD Legacy Society.



## AN INSPIRED FRIEND: KAREN KALISH

"He was the mensch of all time. It was who he was." Karen Kalish is describing her friend, the late Bill Danforth, founding chair of the Donald Danforth Plant Science Center.

Karen got to know Bill after she returned to St. Louis in 2001. For three decades, she had worked as a teacher and then a journalist for major news networks in Washington D.C. and Chicago. Karen has a passion for education and racial equity. Through a mutual friend, she landed on the committee administering the St. Louis desegregation bussing program. Bill was co-chair, along with Frankie Freeman.

"When Bill told me the history of the Danforth Center, and the central part he played, I wanted to support it," continues Karen. "I knew if Bill saw the need, it was important and purposeful—and it is."

In addition to her support of the Danforth Center, Karen has dedicated herself to closing the academic, opportunity, and achievement gaps in public schools by founding several nonprofits, most recently HOME WORKS! The Teacher Home Visit Program.

She is also a new member of the WHD Legacy Society, having included the Danforth Center in her estate plans. "When it came time to think about where to leave my little nest egg, the Danforth Center was on the list because it has to do with Bill."

**"The Danforth Center makes a difference. It helps people around the world and here in St. Louis. And it keeps Bill Danforth's memory alive—and that's important to me."**



▲ WHD Legacy Society member Karen Kalish with Bill Danforth

*When you support the Danforth Center, you are helping find sustainable solutions to feed the world and heal the planet. Planned gifts can create a legacy of support for projects with real-world impact. Call 314.587.1234 for more information.*



# DONALD DANFORTH PLANT SCIENCE CENTER

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## THE REWARDS OF YEAR-END GIVING

While tax laws have changed, there are still many ways you can support the mission of the Donald Danforth Plant Science Center and receive benefits yourself. If you are 70½ or older, you can make a gift of up to \$100,000 to the Danforth Center from your IRA tax-free. Learn more about qualified charitable deductions at **legacy.danforthcenter.org**.

