Dr. Phillips High School National FFA Organization officers (l. to r.) Cynthia Fenelus, treasurer; Ashanti

P roudly hanging in the classroom of long-time agribusines

The 2012 exhibit by students in the National FFA Organization, a leadership organization for agriscience

Bill Pindar of Bay Lakes, whose son, Zach, will graduate from DPHS next month, helped connect Smith

supplies and technical assistance for DPHS's prize-winning exhibit.

Aquaponics technology, a concept less than 20 years old, is a cutting-edge hybrid of aquaculture (tilapia

The winning display included a portable 275-gallon, self-contained aquaponics system made from a re-p

"Aquaculture provides a solution for growing in areas with little water or fertile land, and the produce is g

The students' system is portable enough to fit on a small home patio.

With more healthy produce grown locally, the need to transport produce over long distances is reduced,

Aquaponics produces eight to 10 times as many vegetables in the same land space and uses less than

Under the direction of Smith, DPHS has been a pioneer in teaching agricultural sciences. Students and
The campus also contains an aquaculture area, where tilapia are raised in tanks; and pens for animals,

For these urban students, many of whom had never seen a farm, the experience of hands-on horticultur

Their classes and projects have helped introduce DPHS students to innovative and sustainable agricultu

For the students, who are well-aware of populations in the U.S. and around the world, aquaponics is one

"Students can learn about the cycles of life from working with animals and plants, and feel a sense of pri

Smith, a passionate teacher and adviser to DPHS's FFA group, is on the FFA board of directors for the s

The innovative programs at DPHS help prepare students for a variety of careers in agriculture.

"As we prepare students for the future, we must make sure we are giving them all the tools they will nee

The goal at DPHS is that aquaponics for education can become "edu-ponics." If grant money is obtained

"It is our goal to become the showcase for other high schools across the state and for individuals within