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## **Planting Seeds of Confidence in Tomorrow's Leaders**

(ALBANY, Ore.) "Be the change you want to see in the world" is one of the most well-known leadership quotes in history. Considering children will lead the world in another two decades, Gandhi's words carry significant weight for parents and educators responsible for fostering the desired change. Debra Slover, founder of Leadership Garden Enterprises, LLC, takes this responsibility seriously, providing educational tools for parents including the award-winning children's book, *U.N.I.Q.U.E. KIDS: Growing My Leadership Garden*.

Written as a classic fable, *U.N.I.Q.U.E. KIDS: Growing My Leadership Garden* has been named among the best in family-friendly media as a Mom's Choice Award® winner. It is an illustrated book that empowers children, steers them toward positive patterning, and shows them how to plant and nurture the seeds of good leadership while ridding their metaphorical gardens of the "weeds" (negative qualities that can harm children's self-esteem).

The main character, a sheep named Hugh, suffers from low self-esteem, stemming from an environment where he was often criticized and never appreciated. When he stumbles into Leadership Farm, where a more open and loving way of being is the norm, he learns from human farm staffers as well as other animals how to develop his own leadership qualities and how to tend his own Leadership Garden.

The acronym U.N.I.Q.U.E. stands for Understanding, Nurturing, Inventive, Quality, Unstoppable, Expression. One letter at a time, Slover walks children through harnessing the six qualities together to form a "Leadership Garden Legacy" based on mutual respect, cooperation, teamwork, and other values.

"Time spent developing a child's leadership is priceless in both time and money," says Slover. "It's an investment that pays great dividends, now and in the future."

Slover has dedicated her life to empowering leadership greatness in both youth and adults. She spent 20 years as Director of Oregon Student Safety On the Move, a youth leadership program promoting safe and healthy communities. She lives in Oregon.

*For further information, please visit [www.leadershipgardenlegacy.com](http://www.leadershipgardenlegacy.com). To schedule an interview, please contact Elaine Krackau at [elaine@prbythebook.com](mailto:elaine@prbythebook.com) | 512.501.4399, x 704*

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## About Debra Slover



Debra Slover is an educator, author and child advocate whose mission is to plant the seeds of the next generation of world leaders. As the founder of a ground-breaking children's leadership program modeled on growing a garden, Slover's organization, Leadership Garden Legacy, equips educators and parents with tools to foster children's life skills, self-worth and leadership qualities. By November 11, 2011, she hopes to have seeded and nurtured 11 million Leadership Gardens®.

When Slover was 23, she lost her mother to suicide. Transcending her loss, she applied her passion for empowering leadership greatness and spent more than 32 years working with youth and adults in developing their leadership capacity, both at the state and national level.

Slover has an extensive background in custom program design, tailored curriculum development, small and large group facilitation and leadership coaching. She is highly skilled in event planning, having implemented more than 20 youth-led statewide conferences, two national conferences and 40 youth/adult leadership camps.

A graduate of Oregon State University, Slover's experience includes seven years teaching in public schools and 20 years as Director of Oregon Student Safety On the Move (OSSOM), a statewide youth leadership program promoting safe and healthy communities originating from her alma mater, OSU. She was Board President and Vice President of the National Association of Teen Institutes, chaired two different statewide programs on driver safety and served as an expert/reviewer for the U.S. Department of Education and Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention.

Slover established Leadership Garden Services (formerly Synergy in Motion) in 2003 and later formed Leader Garden Press in 2006. She wrote *U.N.I.Q.U.E.: Growing the Leader Within* to articulate her commitment to empower true leadership with a unique purpose and aim.

An outgrowth of this effort was the formation of Leadership Garden Enterprises, LLC, as the parent company of her two business entities. Slover's ultimate dream was to provide funding, support and recognition of leadership greatness efforts where working cooperatively makes a positive difference locally and globally. She achieved her dream in 2008, establishing the Leadership Garden Fund and now spends her time "pollinating" Leadership Gardens.

Slover is the proud mother and grandmother of five children and six grandchildren. She lives in Albany, Oregon with her husband, Terry and dog, Mooko.

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## **Sample Interview Questions for Debra Slover of Leadership Garden Legacy**

1. What is a Leadership Garden®?
2. Tell us about your company and describe the Leadership Garden Legacy (LGL)
3. What about LGL is new and unique?
4. What made you so passionate about leadership, specifically cultivating it in children?
5. Tell us about the Leadership Garden® program you are helping implement and fund in schools and youth organizations in Oregon and around the country?
6. Will students be growing actual gardens during this time period?
7. Describe the U.N.I.Q.U.E. line of books.
8. Which of the books came first? The one for adults or the one aimed at children and why?
9. Do you think American youth are in a state of crisis right now?
10. What are some recent examples you've seen or heard about that suggest we need to help our children gain more confidence and leadership skills?
11. Do these leadership skills go beyond basic survival skills?
12. What specific qualities and skills will a Leadership Garden® give children?
13. Why is it so important that parents and teachers take the time to discuss leadership qualities and self-confidence with children?
14. If there is a school administrator or youth group leader interested in receiving a grant to test the Leadership Garden® program, how do they qualify?
15. What is your website?
16. Do you have anything else to add?

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