

## STEM Education for Sustainability- Linking Schools and Communities



Last year, West Chester University received just under \$500,000 from the PA Department of Education for an initiative titled **STEM Education for Sustainability – Linking Schools and Communities**. The primary aim is to empower Philadelphia high school students to directly impact their communities by addressing issues of sustainability and social, environmental, and climate justice. The project expands student access and engagement in Green STEM education through teacher professional development in Education for Sustainability and engages students in linking classroom learning to

civic action and Green STEM careers. From August 9-20, 2020, the project kicked off with a two-week Institute for teams of teachers (40 total) from 11 different schools in Philadelphia. Throughout this academic year the school teams will be working with their high school students, supported by a college intern from one of the regional institutions, on community-based projects promoting sustainability as well as social and environmental justice.

The initiative is led by Dr. Paul Morgan from WCU's Department of Educational Foundations and Policy Studies and Dr. Victor Donnay, a Professor of Math at Bryn Mawr College and the Executive Director of PRISE (Philadelphia Regional Institute for STEM Educators). The project coordinator is Kermit O who recently graduated from WCU with an M.S. in Transformative Education & Social Change. Joining the project team in January as Honors Research Scholars are three WCU undergraduates: Jocelyn Brown, Audrey Carson, and Zachary Zajkowski. Key partners in the initiative are PRISE, PHENND (Philadelphia Higher Education Network for Neighborhood Development), and Green Allies.