

NEWS RELEASE

For immediate Release

Contact: Tom Leach
717-731-3557
tom@psbr.org

\$50,000 Grant Awarded to PSBR in Support of its Student Education Program

The Pennsylvania Society for Biomedical Research (PSBR) was awarded a \$50,000 grant to support its growing Science Program and Research Coach (SPARC) education outreach program. The grant funding comes from the Appalachian Regional Commission (ARC).

The SPARC mobile science program provides K-12 students with engaging, hands-on, and career-infused STEM education with real world science equipment directly at their schools and within local communities. SPARC is designed to bring biomedical knowledge and concepts, and career pathway guidance directly to underserved students to create awareness and connections to the biomedical science field.

The Appalachian Regional Commission, an economic development agency representing a partnership of federal, state, and local governments in 13 Appalachian states, awarded PSBR a \$50,000 grant that PSBR will match with internal funds to bring the SPARC program to 5th-8th grade students and teachers throughout all five Bedford County school districts and the County's charter school. The grant will increase the number of students with biomedical science knowledge and skills in order to grow the local workforce pipeline so that more individuals from the County pursue and enter careers in the biomedical science field. ARC funding will be used to cover personnel costs, travel expenses, supplies, equipment, and the hiring additional educators.

"By providing crucial educational opportunities to students, our SPARC program will help create more opportunities for family-sustaining jobs in the biomedical field and support the growth of a diverse and talented workforce in Bedford County," said PSBR Director of Outreach & Education Dr. David Garbe. "SPARC aligns with ARC's regional strategy to provide opportunities for individuals to develop skills and knowledge to be workforce ready for emerging professions, such as those in the biomedical and STEM fields."

"This grant will further collaboration between the employer community and the region's educators to help ensure that employer needs and educational offerings for students are aligned, said PSBR Executive Director Tom Leach. "We are extremely grateful for ARC's support and the backing of our industry partners in getting the next generation of students excited about future science careers."

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The Pennsylvania Society for Biomedical Research (PSBR) is a 501(c)(3) non-profit science education organization formed in 1990. PSBR's mission is to promote a better public understanding of the importance of biomedical research and its contributions to human and animal health, with the goal of offering any person, regardless of age, gender, or income level, the opportunity to engage in scientific exploration and career-connected learning. PSBR carries out this mission by providing in-person activities, presentations and experiences, that support science and healthcare education, career awareness, and professional development opportunities.