

## **NEWS RELEASE**

For immediate Release

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### **\$470,000 Grant Awarded to PSBR in Support of its Student Education Program**

The Pennsylvania Society for Biomedical Research (PSBR) was awarded a \$470,000 grant to support its growing Science Program and Research Coach (SPARC) education outreach program. The grant funding comes from the Pennsylvania Department of Education. Of 156 organizations that applied, PSBR was one of the 42 organizations throughout Pennsylvania awarded a collective \$10 million in this round of grant funding.

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 PAsmart Advancing Grant from the Pennsylvania Department of Education was awarded to PSBR in collaboration with Chester County Intermediate Unit. The grant will allow PSBR to utilize a three-pronged approach to bring science education directly to rural, urban and migrant student populations. By employing a mobile strategy, PSBR is able to cross geographical and language barriers to engage students who historically fall behind their peers. With this investment from the Commonwealth, PSBR will expand access to and boost inclusion in science education, with a goal of inspiring students to consider further STEM-related training and careers. Governor Tom Wolf launched PAsmart in 2018 and the administration distributed nearly \$80 million statewide to support STEM and computer science education in hundreds of schools and expand job training through registered apprenticeships and industry partnerships.

“In addition to the academic benefits, by providing a “SPARC” for students, local talent will be better prepared to meet local workforce needs,” said PSBR Director of Outreach & Education Dr. David Garbe. “With an active and growing biomedical industry throughout Pennsylvania, now more than ever, students in the Commonwealth need additional access to biomedical education and opportunities early in their academic careers.

“We are thrilled to continue growing PSBR. Our history of outstanding educational outreach, combined with our latest grant support, will propel our SPARC program to make a meaningful impact on the future of students throughout the Commonwealth,” said PSBR Executive Director Tom Leach. “We are grateful for the recognition and support from the Pennsylvania Department of Education and the Wolf Administration.”

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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.