



## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### **WPPSEF Awards Grant to PennTAP for Alternative Energy Technology Education Project**

**Fayette County, PA** - WPPSEF has awarded a grant to Penn State University's Pennsylvania Technical Assistance Program (PennTAP), amounting in \$25,000, to enable a workforce and education development project surrounding alternative energy technology at the Fayette County Career and Technical Institute (FCCTI).

PennTAP, a federal, state, and University partnership to stimulate statewide economic development, is working collaboratively with FCCTI, a technical high school, to develop an alternative energy technology program at their facility. Over the course of the project, the FCCTI students will have the opportunity to learn from PennTAP's technical assistance team as they complete onsite alternative energy assessments. This project will support the revitalization of the Fayette County community by fostering economic development through the expanded use of sustainable energy technologies, installation and maintenance of these emerging energy technologies, and the creation of a sustainable energy workforce.

"We are eager to engage with the students at FCCTI and help build Fayette County's forward momentum towards creating a more sustainable and economically efficient community," PennTAP Director Tanna Pugh said. "Our team will both ensure the facility is able to support alternative energy installation and organize student engagement activities surrounding wind, solar, and electric vehicles."

Project partners include the Fay-Penn Economic Development Center, which will share the progress of the project and provide their facility for additional educational and engagement opportunities, and Envinity, a solar installer providing a solar assessment as well as educational opportunities for the students at FCCTI.

The grant funds will enable FCCTI to evaluate the community needs for alternative energy workforce development, providing the technical justification for future installations of alternative energy technologies.

"With these funds, the FCCTI will be able to take the next step in a plan we began more than a decade ago to increase our sustainability," FCCTI Executive Director Dr. Cynthia Shaw said. "This grant, which will fund alternative energy studies for our campus, will help us evolve our facilities and curriculum offerings in ways that will improve our community and our workforce."

#### ***About the Pennsylvania Technical Assistance Program:***

*The Pennsylvania Technical Assistance Program (PennTAP) at Penn State is a federal, state, and University partnership to stimulate statewide economic development. PennTAP helps organizations*



*maximize their competitiveness through in-person consultations, unbiased technical advice, and connections to Penn State experts, resources, and programs.*

***About the West Penn Power Sustainable Energy Fund:***

*The West Penn Power Sustainable Energy Fund (WPPSEF) is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization that invests in the deployment of sustainable energy technologies that benefit West Penn Power ratepayers in Pennsylvania. WPPSEF investments are focused in three broad categories:*

- ✓ Deployment of sustainable and clean energy technologies;*
- ✓ Deployment of energy efficiency and conservation technologies; and*
- ✓ Facilitating economic development, environmental betterment, and public education as they relate to sustainable energy deployment in the WPP service region.*

*Visit <http://www.wppsef.org> for further information. YouTube—Listen to what our project partners have to say about us.*

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**CONTACT:**

Tanna Pugh, Director, PennTAP

[uxp3@psu.edu](mailto:uxp3@psu.edu)