



## *The Penn State Center: Engaging Pittsburgh*

### Overview

The focus is on relationship development and strengthening to connect and engage the entire University with local partners. This is carried out through our Outreach network that has connections with every college and branch campus in the Penn State System. We will actively solicit stakeholders to identify regional needs and develop key strategic relationships to connect PSU research and programming with these partners. Significant emphasis is being placed on the *engagement of Pittsburgh area corporations, public officials, and organization leadership* as we carry out this core activity.

Resources of both University Park colleges and regional campuses are used *to help provide appropriate solutions to real problems in the areas of:*

- *Research support for product commercialization*
- *Workforce enhancement*
- *Community and economic development*
- *Sustainability efforts*
- *Tech transfer,*
- *Student engagement*
- *And more.*

The Center functions as a liaison in the identification of needs, communicating these needs back through the institution, and then work with the appropriate delivery unit(s) to provide the educational programming and/or research to address these needs.

Some initial programmatic foci will be with *the College of Agricultural Sciences'* in the area of *Community Development and Vitality*. Within this general area, the Center's efforts will be targeted to programmatic areas that are unique strengths of the College of Agricultural Sciences. These areas are:

- Biomass and Alternative Energies
- Entomology and Plant Pathology
- Urban Agriculture and Food Production
- Urban/Community Greening and Brownfield Remediation

The College of Agricultural Sciences will target resources (i.e. faculty, staff, extension educators, and seed funding) to these areas.

Additional college partnerships are being developed to strengthen connections with the broad range of resources available through Penn State and the entire Land Grant System.