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**EDITORS:** The following information is for immediate release. If you have any questions, please contact Karen Costello, program and marketing coordinator of the Chester County Economic Development Council, at 610 458-5700.

## **Economic Development Council's Smart Energy Initiative works with students to install solar system on school roof**

*Project is first of its kind in Chester County*

**EXTON** \_ Members of the Chester County Economic Development Council's Smart Energy Initiative worked with the Chester County Intermediate Unit students and staff to install a solar PV system on the roof of a model school.

The electrical students of the Center for Arts and Technology, Phoenixville, created the building and installed the solar PV system. SEI helped design and procure equipment for the project and SEI's Jason Ulshafer worked with Intermediate Unit's staff to begin the project.

"This is the first project of the kind in the county and maybe the state. The exercise was a great learning experience for the students," said Gary Smith, President and Chief Executive Officer of the Chester County Economic Development Council. "Our initiative is an innovative program that promotes the growth of smart energy industry by providing comprehensive workforce and economic development services to partnering companies."

SEI offers financial assistance for training employees and establishes educational programs to supply a pipeline of qualified, entry-level workers in the field. SEI also offers international business support and high-quality technical expertise. SEI is a single point of contact for grants and loans for workforce development, updating facilities and new construction.

Funding for SEI comes in part by grants from the Chester County Workforce Investment Board and the Pennsylvania Department of Labor and Industry. For more information on SEI, see [www.smartenergypa.org](http://www.smartenergypa.org).

The Chester County Economic Development Council is a private, non-profit economic development organization that has been nurturing economic growth in Chester County and the surrounding region for 50 years. The Council's portfolio of business growth services includes: low-interest financing, small business lending, workforce training, retention and expansion, customized international business assistance, land and building site selection, brownfields consultation and remediation, urban redevelopment, and agricultural economic development. The Council also offers state-of-the art conference and training facilities at its facility in Eagleview. For more information, see [www.cceconomicdevelopment.com](http://www.cceconomicdevelopment.com).