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Newport Area School District has been awarded a Teacher in the Workplace Mini-Grant from the Partnership for Career Development through the generous support of the PA Department of Labor and Industry. This mini-grant will provide students field-based instruction beyond their classrooms in math and science and connect students with career experiences.

The location of these real-world lessons is Stone House Farm & Inn in Elliotsburg. This is the site of a new prevocational program that was developed in partnership with Newport, West Perry, Greenwood and Susquenita School Districts to fill a void in career training for transitional students with intellectual and developmental disabilities.

“Our vision is that this will not only be a pre-vocational training center for the entire county but will also be a site where regular education students have the opportunity to develop career awareness, employability skills, and trade experiences.” explained Karen Smith, Career and Transition Coordinator at Newport School District.

Funding will be used for professional training for students and teachers on pond restoration to build a healthy habitat for the aquatic life of the pond at Stone House Farm & Inn. Once trained, a multi-grade level curriculum project will be developed and led by student leaders that are interested in an environmental career. The participation from start to finish will provide students valuable employability skills such as collaboration, problem solving, critical thinking, time management, and community volunteerism.

The funding for the beginning stages of this project to conduct the research study will provide Newport School District students with a longitudinal study that will continue for many years to come. Additionally, the unique partnership with Stone House Farm & Inn provides the

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opportunity of integrating all populations of students and will allow for students with intellectual and developmental disabilities the opportunity to participate in the pre-vocational program with peers and create interesting and educational learning experiences that can be applicable to their future employment.

Please contact Deborah Shaffer at Hempfield Behavioral Health at 570-259-0828 or visit our web and social media page at www.hempfieldpa.com and facebook.com/hempfieldpa for more information about Stone House Farm & Inn.