



**Contact: Aaronda Beauford**  
**Office: (610) 789-7200, ext. 3232**  
**E-Mail: [abeauford@upperdarbysd.org](mailto:abeauford@upperdarbysd.org)**

**For Immediate Release**  
**Wednesday, November 13, 2019**

## **UPPER DARBY SCHOOL DISTRICT TO RECEIVE \$10,000 FROM WELLS FARGO TO SUPPORT READING PROGRAM**

*Upper Darby School District uses gift to provide support for early literacy learning*

**Upper Darby, PA** - Upper Darby School District has been gifted \$10,000 from Wells Fargo to support the work the District is doing with the AIM Institute for Learning & Research's AIM Pathways program. This gift, directly awarded to AIM and earmarked for the professional development opportunities in the District, will help fund the AIM Pathways to Proficient Reading course and accompanying coaching sessions for a cohort of early literacy teachers and leaders at the Kindergarten Center.

This course, which is accredited by the International Dyslexia Association and aligned with IDA's Knowledge and Practice Standards for Teachers of Reading, will provide District professionals with additional foundational literacy strategies and knowledge while providing teachers with opportunities to learn about and practice how to provide explicit, systematic instruction in all five essential components of early reading instruction. The District believes that providing tools to help prepare teachers in delivering quality instruction is the most impactful way to help students develop these skills.

The AIM Institute for Learning & Research has been a resource for research-based professional development for administrators, teachers, and specialists in the District. This level of targeted professional development and support will benefit every student in the early learning classroom environment. "We are excited about our partnership with Wells Fargo in supporting our District's educational initiatives," says Dr. Daniel P. McGarry, Superintendent of Schools. "This initiative aligns with our comprehensive school improvement plan as we work to improve early literacy skills. We look forward to working with AIM Pathways to move this important initiative forward."

"We are thrilled to partner with Upper Darby to provide teachers resources and tools grounded in the science of reading that they can incorporate into their classrooms to support all readers," says Nancy Blair, AIM Institute Associate Director.

The check will be presented at the Kindergarten Center on November 14, 2019.

###